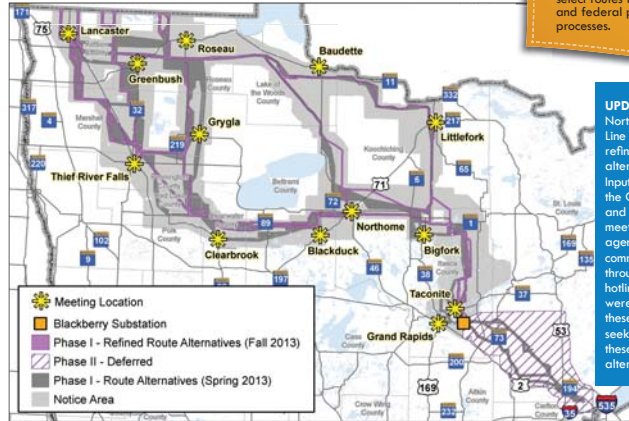


## JOIN US!

By attending an open house, you will:

1. Learn about the project.
2. Discuss the routing process with project team members.
3. Provide input to help us select routes for the state and federal permitting processes.



**UPDATE:** The Great Northern Transmission Line has developed refined route alternatives (in purple). Input gathered from the October 2012 and April 2013 public meetings, ongoing agency meetings, and comments submitted through our website, hotline, and email were used to develop these routes. We are seeking your input on these refined route alternatives.

Detailed maps available online at: [www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com/map/](http://www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com/map/)

### Project Phases

Minnesota Power is proposing to build the Great Northern Transmission Line to bring clean, emission-free energy into Minnesota, meet growing energy demands and increase system reliability. The Great Northern Transmission Line will consist of two transmission lines:

- **Phase 1:** 500 kV transmission line from the Canadian border to Minnesota's Iron Range, and
- **Phase 2:** 345 kV double circuit transmission line from the Iron Range to near Duluth, Minnesota.

Minnesota Power is moving forward with the routing, siting, and permitting process for Phase 1. We fully anticipate both phases of the Project to be constructed; however, the 500 kV line is our initial priority. At this point, a timeframe has not been determined when Minnesota Power will continue development of Phase 2.

### Meeting Purpose

The September public open house meetings will allow landowners, stakeholders, and interested members of the public to learn more about the project and our transmission line routing process, discuss questions and concerns with our project team, and give us input that we can carefully review and consider as we select routes for the state and federal permitting processes.



### For More Information

**Call:** 877.657.9934

**Visit:** [www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com](http://www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com)

**Email:** [info@GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com](mailto:info@GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com)

If you can't attend in person or want more information, visit our online meeting anytime September 9-30, 2013. Online meetings provide video clips along with the same maps and information boards used at the open house meetings.

[www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com/online-meeting](http://www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com/online-meeting)

[www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com](http://www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com)

## JOIN US AT AN OPEN HOUSE MEETING NEAR YOU!

Stop by anytime during one of the meetings listed below. No formal presentation will be given. The project team will be available to give small group tours and answer your questions. Informational materials and detailed maps will be displayed at each open house. Light refreshments will be provided.

Visit our online meeting anytime September 9-30, 2013 at:  
[www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com/online-meeting](http://www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com/online-meeting)

### MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS FOR PHASE 1 \*

Date and City	Time	Venue Name & Address
<b>WEEK ONE</b>		
<b>Clearbrook</b> Monday September 9	5 pm - 7 pm	Clear Waters Life Center 256 2nd Ave SW Clearbrook, MN 56634
<b>Grygla</b> Tuesday September 10	11 am - 1 pm	Grygla Community Center 127 S Main Ave Grygla, MN 56727
<b>Thief River Falls</b> Tuesday September 10	5 pm - 7 pm	Ralph Engelstad Arena Imperial Room 525 Brooks Avenue North Thief River Falls, MN 56701
<b>Lancaster</b> Wednesday September 11	11 am - 1 pm	Lancaster Community Center 118 Central Ave S Lancaster, MN 56735

\*Meetings for the routing process of Phase 2 - the 345 kV line - have not been scheduled at this time. Phase 2 has been deferred until further notice.

Date and City	Time	Venue Name & Address
<b>Greenbush</b> Thursday September 12	11 am - 1 pm	Greenbush Community Center 244 Main St N Greenbush, MN 56726
<b>Roseau</b> Thursday September 12	5 pm - 7 pm	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street East Roseau, MN 56751
<b>Baudette</b> Friday September 13	11 am - 1 pm	Baudette Ambulance Garage 111 First Ave SW Baudette, MN 56623
<b>WEEK TWO</b>		
<b>Taconite</b> Monday September 16	5 pm - 7 pm	Taconite Community Center 26 Haynes Street South Taconite, MN 55786
<b>Blackduck</b> Tuesday September 17	5 pm - 7 pm	Blackduck Public High School 156 1st Street NE Blackduck, MN 56630
<b>Littlefork</b> Wednesday September 18	11 am - 1 pm	Littlefork Community Center 220 Main Street Littlefork, MN 56653
<b>Northome</b> Wednesday September 18	5 pm - 7 pm	Northome Public School 11731 MN Hwy 1 Northome, MN 56661
<b>Bigfork</b> Thursday September 19	11 am - 1 pm	Bigfork City Hall 200 Main Ave Bigfork, MN 56628
<b>Grand Rapids</b> Thursday September 19	5 pm - 7 pm	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street Grand Rapids, MN 55744

## Public Open House Invitation

c/o HDR Engineering  
701 Xenia Ave South, 600  
Minneapolis, MN 55416

## I. Summary

Minnesota Power hosted a series of 13 in-person public open house meetings from September 9-13 and September 16-19, 2013. An online open house meeting was open from September 9-30, 2013 to gather input from local stakeholders and the public on the narrowed proposed route alternatives of the Great Northern Transmission Line.

### a. Meeting Attendance

A total of 683 invitees attended the meetings. A table of attendance by week and meeting is located in Section III.

### b. Meeting Materials

- Overview handout
- Comment form
- Exit Survey form
- Two sets of Information Boards:
  - Project overview
  - Meeting regional needs
  - Local economics
  - Route alternatives
  - Routing process
  - Regulatory process
  - Preliminary structure design (3)
  - Typical structures
  - Right-of-way acquisition process
  - Electric & Magnetic Fields (EMF)
- Sign-in sheets
- Resource materials:
  - MP Energy Forward program overview
  - EMF handout
  - Copies of information boards
- Two GIS mapping stations
- Large aerial maps

### c. General Comments and Surveys

To collect feedback during the open house meetings, comment forms and a one-page exit survey were made available in every meeting handout given to attendees. Comment forms and surveys could be submitted during the open house meeting in one of the two comment boxes or mailed to HDR following the meeting by folding and placing a stamp on the back of the comment form.

We received approximately 102 comment forms and 245 exit surveys at the 13 open houses. Many of both forms were mailed in the weeks after the meetings.

### d. Mapping Comments

In order to streamline the collection of comments on the detailed aerial maps, HDR used a system that required each project team member to place a sticker dot (initials and dot

number) in the location of the map comment, record comment information in their notebooks, and log comments into the comment tracker spreadsheet at the end of each week of open house meetings. From this process, approximately 91 mapping comments were collected. Table 1 identifies the comment category, number, and major topics collected during the meetings.

Comment Type	Count
Homes/Structures	21
Agriculture/Farming	21
Land	19
Airport/Airstrip	10
Natural Resources	8
Cultural Resources	3
Recreation	3
Utility	2
Wildlife	2
Mining	1
Development	1
Transportation	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>

## II. Outreach

The following forms of communication were used to reach out to stakeholders and landowners within the project study corridors to promote the open house meetings.

### a. Mailings


Landowners within the project study corridor were sent postcard mailings inviting them to the open house meetings. In total, there were 40,982 mailings sent. The list included landowners, those that had signed up for the mailing list or submitted a comment, previous meeting attendees, and former elected officials. There were also emails sent as a reminder for the meetings to landowners that provided email addresses. All mailings directed recipients to the project hotline number (877.657.9934), email ([info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com](mailto:info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com)), and website ([www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com)) for more information about the project and meetings.

Stakeholders - city, state, township, and county representatives, non-government organizations, and tribal contacts - were also sent a letter and map inviting them to the open house meetings. There were a total of 3,470 stakeholder letters mailed on August 14, 2013.

### b. Media

Paid advertisements that listed meeting dates and times were sent to 31 publications in the project study area. Press releases that further explained the project and announcing the open house meetings were sent to 29 media outlets. For a table showing the list of publications, refer to Appendix A.

## c. Website/Online Open House Meeting

The project's website announced the public meetings weeks before the first meeting. It also encouraged those who could not attend in person to experience the **online open house meeting**. This part of the website featured videos from the project and communication team, additional information categorized by topic, and a tour format similar to what attendees experienced while at an open house meeting. This online open house was made available from April 1  ay 5, 2012. For website statistics information, refer to Appendix B.

## III. Open House Overview

The open house meetings occurred in 7 locations in northwestern Minnesota from September 9-13, 2013, and 6 locations in northeastern Minnesota from September 16-19, 2013. The meeting locations were determined by considering the proximity of the location to the route alternatives and travel distance for landowners. An overview map of the area and meeting locations is located below; Table 2 shows meeting location and attendance information.

**Table 2: Number of Attendees per Meeting Location**

Date & Time	Meeting	Attendees
Mon, Sept 9 5-7pm	Clearbrook	82
Tues, Sept 10 11am-1pm	Grygla	36
Tues, Sept 10 5-7pm	Thief River Falls	95
Wed, Sept 11 11am-1pm	Lancaster	37
Thurs, Sept 12 11am-1pm	Greenbush	27
Thurs, Sept 12 5-7pm	Roseau	53
Fri, Sept 13 11am-1pm	Baudette	20
Mon, Sept 16 5-7pm	Taconite	44
Tues, Sept 17 5-7pm	Blackduck	61
Wed, Sept 16 11am-1pm	Littlefork	28
Wed, Sept 16 5-7pm	Northome	53
Thurs, Sept 17 11am-1pm	Bigfork	61
Thurs, Sept 17 5-7pm	Grand Rapids	86
Total		683





### Appendix A

### Media Publications

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# September 2013

## Routing Open House Meeting Summary

	Outlet	Paid Ad	Press Release
	Bagley Farmers Independent	Wed Sep 4	✓
	Baudette Region	Tues Sep 3	✓
	Cloquet Pine Journal	Thu Sep 5	✓
	Western Itasca Review	Thu Sep 5	✓
	Duluth Budgeteer News	<b>Sun Sep 8</b>	✓
	Duluth News-Tribune	Thu Sep 5 & Fri Sep 6	✓
	Erskine Echo	Thu Sep 5	✓
	Fertile Journal	Wed Sep 4	✓
	Floodwood Forum	Thu Sep 5	✓
	Fosston Thirteen Towns	Tue Sep 3	✓
	Grand Rapids Herald-Review	Wed Sep 4 & Wed Sep 11	✓
	Greenbush Tribune	Wed Sep 4	✓
	Grygla Eagle	Wed Sep 4	
	Hermantown Star	Thu Sep 5	✓
	Karlstad North Star News	Thu Sep 5	✓
	Kittson County Enterprise	Wed Sep 4	✓
	Leader-Record	Wed Sep 4	✓
	Oklee Herald	Wed Sep 4	✓
	Proctor Journal	Thu Sep 5	✓
	Red Lake Falls Gazette	<b>Wed Sep 4</b>	✓
	McIntosh Times	Wed Sep 4	
	Roseau Times-Region	Sat Sep 7	✓
	Scenic Range News Forum	Thu Sep 5	✓
	The American	Sun Sep 8	✓
	The Bemidji Pioneer	Thu Sep 5 & Fri Sep 6	✓
	The Hibbing Daily Tribune	Thu Sep 5 & Fri Sep 6	✓
	The Littlefork Times	Fri Sep 6	✓
	Thief River Falls Times, Inc.	Wed Sep 4	✓
	Warren Sheaf	Wed Sep 4	✓
	Warroad Pioneer	Tues Sep 3	✓

### Appendix B

### Online Open House Meeting Statistics

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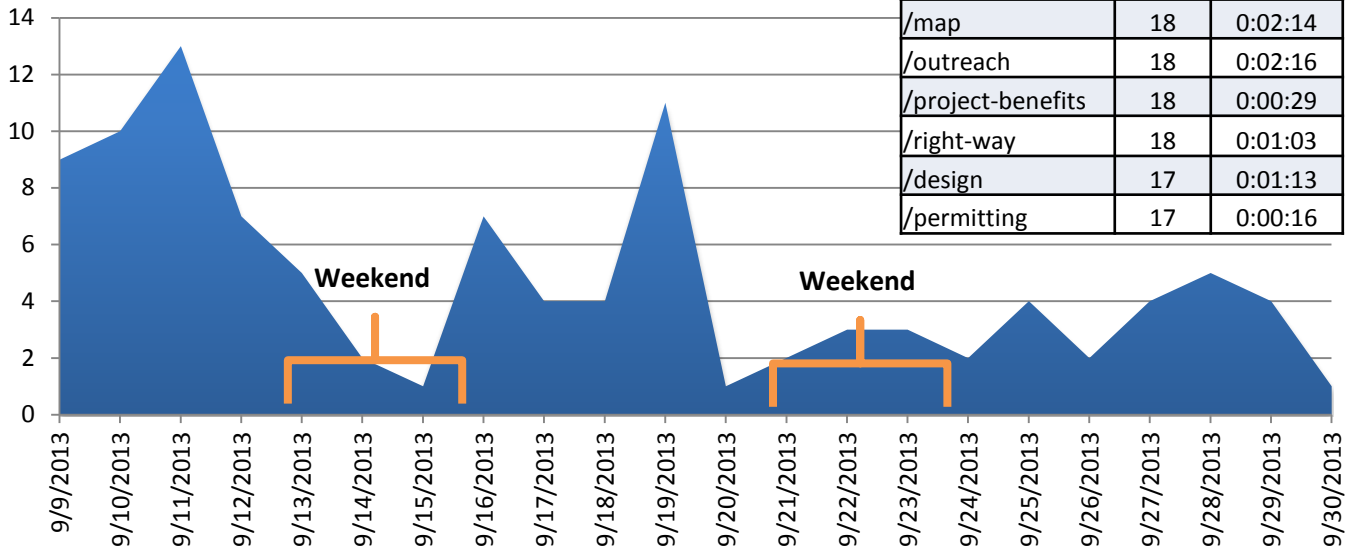
# Online Meeting Statistics

September 9 – September 30, 2013

## Top 10 pages

Page	Unique Visitors	Avg. Time on Page
<b>Home</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>0:01:03</b>
/overview	49	0:01:11
/routing	27	0:01:10
/project-need	23	0:00:42
/map	18	0:02:14
/outreach	18	0:02:16
/project-benefits	18	0:00:29
/right-way	18	0:01:03
/design	17	0:01:13
/permitting	17	0:00:16

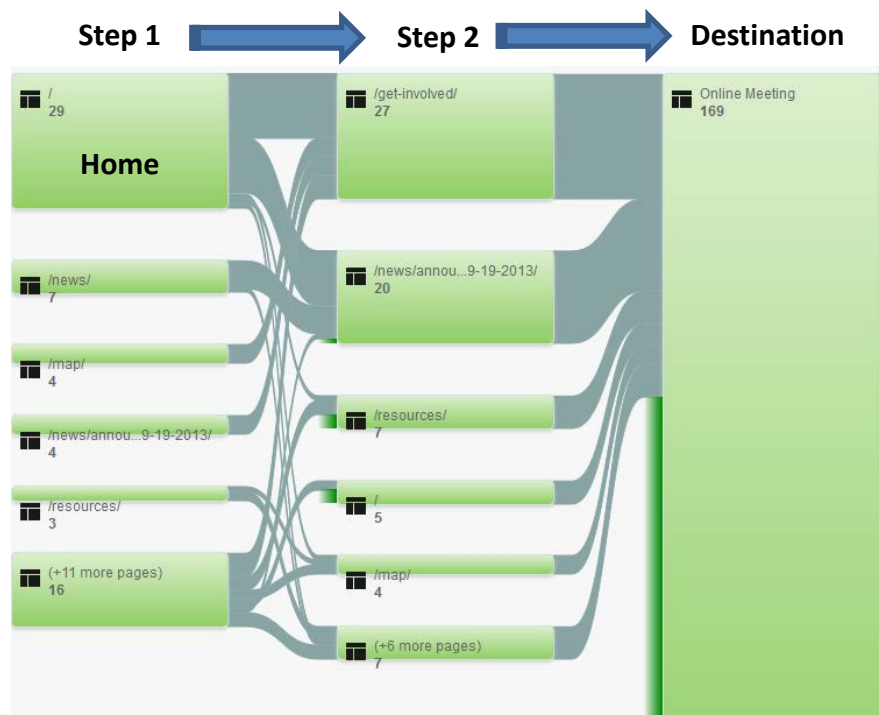
## 108 unique visitors



## Videos (New Sept 2013)

Video	Plays
Routing the line	185
About the project	13
Project phasing	7
ROW	7
About Minnesota Power	5
Project need	5
Welcome	3
Clean Energy	3

## How visitors navigated to the Online Meeting Page

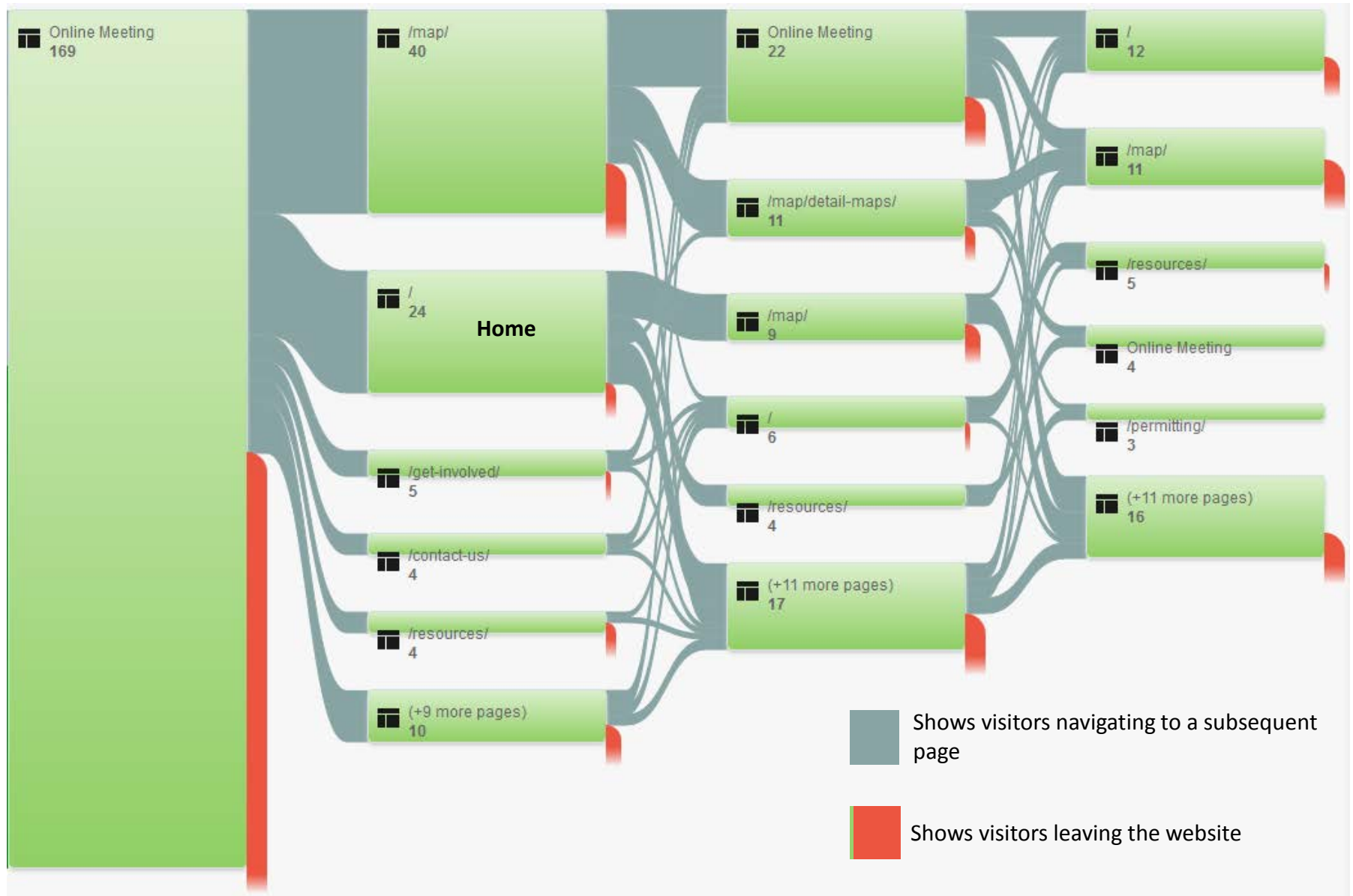


## Comments Received

Media	Sept 9 - 30, 2013	To date
Web	23	167
Hotline	10	89
Email	2	120
Mailing List	23	237
Meeting forms	126	126
Survey	186	186

Note: All statistics were adjusted to exclude hits from Minnesota Power and HDR.

## How visitors navigated through the online meeting







## Join us at an open house meeting near you

### Attend a meeting to:

- Learn about the project and the routing process
- Discuss routing process with project team members.
- Provide input as we select routes for the state review process.

Minnesota Power is hosting public open house meetings for the proposed **Great Northern Transmission Line** from the Canadian border through the Iron Range to near Duluth, MN. The line will deliver hydropower from Manitoba Hydro to customers in the U.S. We hope to gather your input to help us evaluate our route alternatives.

Date and City	Time	Venue Name & Address
<b>Clearbrook</b> Monday, Sept 9	5pm - 7pm	Clear Waters Life Center 256 2nd Ave SW, Clearbrook, MN 56634
<b>Grygla</b> Tuesday, Sept 10	11 am - 1pm	Grygla Community Center 127 S Main Ave, Grygla, MN 56727
<b>Thief River Falls</b> Tuesday, Sept 10	5pm - 7pm	Ralph Engelstad Arena Imperial Room 525 Brooks Ave North, Thief River Falls, MN 56701
<b>Lancaster</b> Wednesday, Sept 11	11 am - 1pm	Lancaster Community Center 118 Central Ave S, Lancaster, MN 56735
<b>Greenbush</b> Thursday, Sept 12	11 am - 1pm	Greenbush Community Center 244 Main St N, Greenbush, MN 56726
<b>Roseau</b> Thursday, Sept 12	5pm - 7pm	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street East, Roseau, MN 56751
<b>Baudette</b> Friday, Sept 13	11 am - 1pm	Baudette Ambulance Garage 111 First Ave SW, Baudette, MN 56623
<b>Taconite</b> Monday, Sept 16	5pm - 7pm	Taconite Community Center 26 Haynes Street South, Taconite, MN 55786
<b>Blackduck</b> Tuesday, Sept 17	5pm - 7pm	Blackduck Public High School 156 1st Street NE, Blackduck, MN 56630
<b>Littlefork</b> Wednesday, Sept 18	11 am - 1pm	Littlefork Community Center 220 Main Street, Littlefork, MN 56653
<b>Northome</b> Wednesday, Sept 18	5pm - 7pm	Northome Public School 11731 MN Hwy 1, Northome, MN 56661
<b>Bigfork</b> Thursday, Sept 19	11 am - 1pm	Bigfork City Hall 200 Main Ave, Bigfork, MN 56628
<b>Grand Rapids</b> Thursday, Sept 19	5pm - 7pm	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

**Can't attend in person? Join our online meeting from September 9–30:**  
[GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com/online-meeting](https://www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com/online-meeting)

Visit [www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com](https://www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com) for more information



For Release: September 3, 2013

Contact: Amy Rutledge  
Manager Corporate Communications  
Minnesota Power/ALLETE  
218-723-7400  
arutledge@mnpower.com

# NEWS

## Minnesota Power to host open houses throughout region for Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Duluth, Minn. – Minnesota Power will host thirteen public open house meetings beginning September 9 to gather additional input and provide information on its Great Northern Transmission line. The information will focus on the project's refined route alternatives for the Phase 1, s 500 kV transmission line from the Canadian border to Minnesota's Iron Range. The public meetings will be an open house format with no formal presentations. Project team members will be available to give small group tours and answer your questions.

Those who are unable to attend a meeting in person can visit an online open house meeting site from September 9-30 at [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/online-meeting](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/online-meeting). The same information will be available at the in-person and online open house meetings.

Join us at one of the open house meetings near you. Times, dates, and locations of each open house meeting are listed below. A listing of the open houses also can be found on the project website at [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com) and through the project information line at (877) 657-9934. Materials used during the open houses will be available on the project website along with an interactive map of the route alternatives. Input received during in-person and online open houses on the route alternatives will be reviewed and considered while developing preferred routes.

Date & Time	Venue Name & Address
<u>Monday</u> <u>September 9<sup>th</sup></u> <u>5-7pm</u>	<u>Clear Waters Life Center</u> <u>256 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SW</u> <u>Clearbrook, MN 56634</u>
<u>Tuesday</u> <u>September 10<sup>th</sup></u> <u>11am-1pm</u>	<u>Grygla Community Center</u> <u>127 S Main Ave</u> <u>Grygla, MN 56727</u>
<u>Tuesday</u> <u>September 10<sup>h</sup></u> <u>5-7pm</u>	<u>Ralph Engelstad Arena Imperial Room</u> <u>525 Brooks Avenue North</u> <u>Thief River Falls, MN 56701</u>
<u>Wednesday</u> <u>September 11<sup>th</sup></u> <u>11am-1pm</u>	<u>Lancaster Community Center</u> <u>118 Central Ave S</u> <u>Lancaster, MN 56735</u>
<u>Thursday</u> <u>September 12<sup>th</sup></u> <u>11am-1pm</u>	<u>Greenbush Community Center</u> <u>244 Main St N</u> <u>Greenbush, MN 56726</u>
<u>Thursday</u> <u>September 12<sup>th</sup></u> <u>5-7pm</u>	<u>Roseau Civic Center</u> <u>121 Center Street East</u> <u>Roseau, MN 56751</u>
<u>Friday</u> <u>September 13<sup>th</sup></u> <u>11am-1pm</u>	<u>Baudette Ambulance Garage</u> <u>111 First Ave SW</u> <u>Baudette, MN 56623</u>

Date & Time	Venue Name & Address
<u>Monday</u> <u>September 16<sup>th</sup></u> <u>5-7pm</u>	<u>Taconite Community Center</u> <u>26 Haynes Street South</u> <u>Taconite, MN 55786</u>
<u>Tuesday</u> <u>September 17<sup>th</sup></u> <u>5-7pm</u>	<u>Blackduck Public High School</u> <u>156 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE</u> <u>Blackduck, MN 56630</u>
<u>Wednesday</u> <u>September 18<sup>th</sup></u> <u>11am-1pm</u>	<u>Littlefork Community Center</u> <u>220 Main Street</u> <u>Littlefork, MN 56653</u>
<u>Wednesday</u> <u>September 18<sup>th</sup></u> <u>5-7pm</u>	<u>Northome Public School</u> <u>11731 MN Hwy 1</u> <u>Northome, MN</u>
<u>Thursday</u> <u>September 19<sup>th</sup></u> <u>11am-1pm</u>	<u>Bigfork City Hall</u> <u>200 Main Ave</u> <u>Bigfork, MN 56628</u>
<u>Thursday</u> <u>September 19<sup>th</sup></u> <u>5-7pm</u>	<u>Timberlake Lodge</u> <u>144 SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street</u> <u>Grand Rapids, MN 55744</u>

Minnesota Power is proposing to build the Great Northern Transmission Line to deliver clean, emission-free hydropower to customers in Minnesota, meet growing energy demand, and increase system reliability. The Great Northern Transmission Line consists of two transmission lines, built in two phases:

- Phase 1: 500 kV transmission line from the Canadian border to Minnesota's Iron Range.
- Phase 2: 345 kV double circuit line from the Iron Range to near Duluth, Minnesota.

Minnesota Power is moving forward with the routing, siting, and permitting process for Phase 1. We fully anticipate both phases of the Project to be constructed; however, the 500 kV line is our initial priority. At this point, a timeframe has not been determined when Minnesota Power will continue development of Phase 2.

The final route will be approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission through the state application process and the Department of Energy will approve the project through the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Construction of Phase 1 is expected to begin in 2017, and be in service by June 1, 2020. Minnesota Power is currently in the environmental and regulatory review stage of the project. Agencies, officials, tribes, and landowners with jurisdiction or property within the Great Northern Transmission Line notice area received a notification letter in early August of the Certificate of Need, or CN, process. The CN is the first major step in the state regulatory process. The CN process determines if the project is necessary and determines project end points. Minnesota Power will submit a CN application in September 2013 and anticipates the CN process to be completed by late-summer 2014. Visit [www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com](http://www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com) for more information.

Minnesota Power, a division of ALLETE, provides electricity in a 26,000-square-mile electric service area in northeastern Minnesota. Minnesota Power supplies retail electric service to 144,000 customers and wholesale electric service to 16 municipalities. Minnesota Power's transmission and distribution components include 8,866 miles of lines and 169 substations. Minnesota Power's transmission network, a critical component of regional electric grid reliability, is part of a larger transmission organization called the Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO).

*The statements contained in this release and statements that ALLETE may make orally in connection with this release that are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties and investors are directed to the risks discussed in documents filed by ALLETE with the Securities and Exchange Commission*

###



[View In Browser](#)

## Join us at an open house meeting near you

Minnesota Power is proposing to build the [Great Northern Transmission Line project](#) to bring clean, emission-free energy into Minnesota, meet growing energy demands and increase system reliability. The Great Northern Transmission Line will consist of two transmission lines:

- **Phase 1:** 500 kV transmission line from the Canadian border to Minnesota's Iron Range
- **Phase 2:** 345 kV double circuit transmission line from the Iron Range to near Duluth, Minnesota.

Minnesota Power is moving forward with the routing, siting, and permitting process for Phase 1. We fully anticipate both phases of the Project to be constructed; however, the 500 kV line is our initial priority. At this point, a timeframe has not been determined when Minnesota Power will continue development of Phase 2.

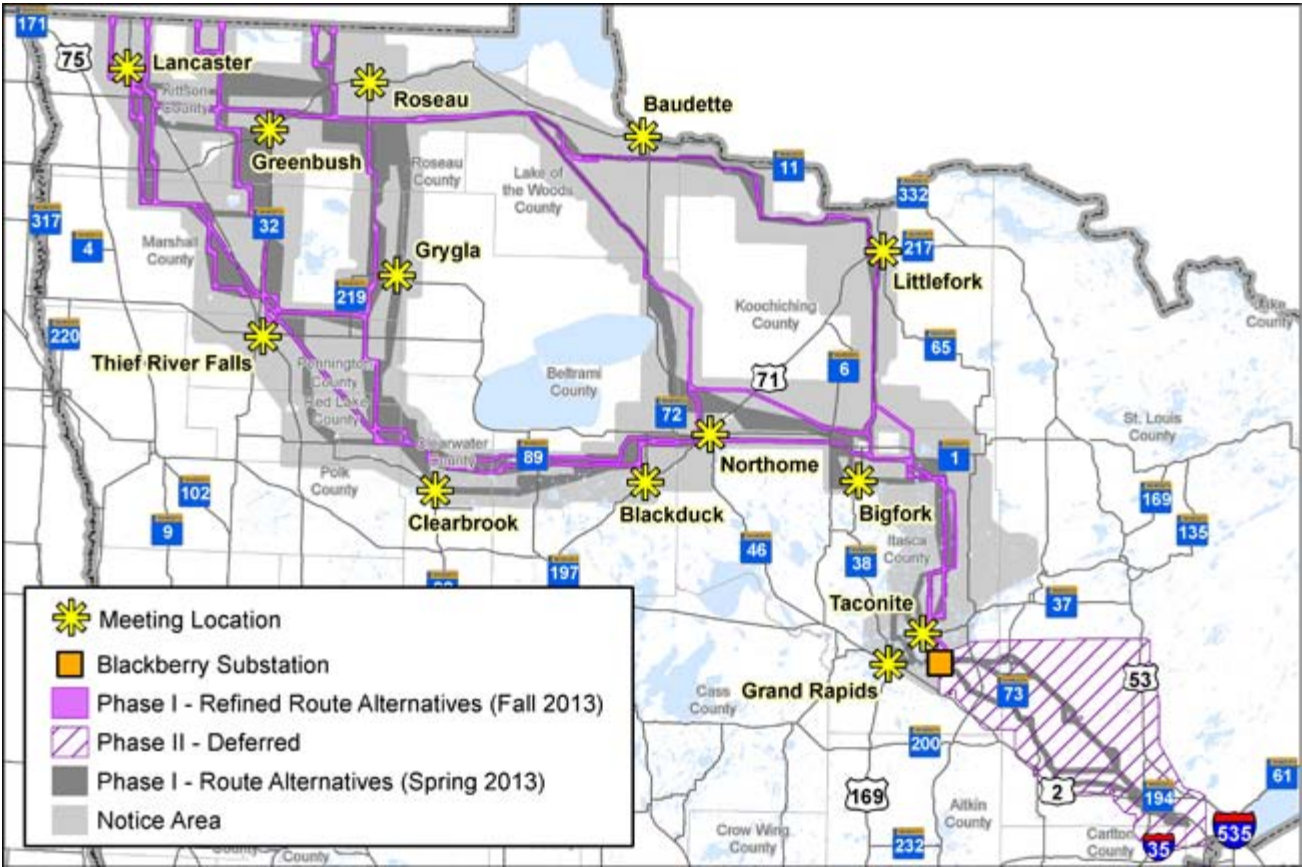
### JOIN US!

**By attending an open house, you will:**

1. Learn about the project.
2. Discuss the routing process with project team members.
3. Provide input to help us select routes for the state and federal permitting processes.

Please attend a meeting near you in September or join the [online meeting](#) on our website to allow us to gather your input to help us select routes for the state and federal permitting processes.

## Great Northern Transmission Line - Route Alternatives Map (Fall 2013)



Wednesday September 11	11am - 1pm	118 Central Ave S Lancaster, MN 56735
<b>Greenbush</b>		
Thursday September 12	11am - 1pm	Greenbush Community Center 244 Main St N Greenbush, MN 56726
<b>Roseau</b>		
Thursday September 12	5pm - 7pm	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street East Roseau, MN 56751
<b>Baudette</b>		
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<b>Bigfork</b>		
Thursday September 19	11am - 1pm	Bigfork City Hall 200 Main Ave Bigfork, MN 56628
<b>Grand Rapids</b>		
Thursday September 19	5pm - 7pm	Timberlake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street Grand Rapids, MN 55744

## Can't attend a meeting in person?

Join our online meeting from September 9 - September 30

at: [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/online-meeting/](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/online-meeting/)

## ► Meeting Purpose

The September public open house meetings will allow landowners, stakeholders, and interested members of the public to learn more about the project and our transmission line routing process, discuss questions and concerns with our project team, and give us input that we can carefully review and consider as we select routes for the state and federal permitting processes.



## ► For more information

**Visit:** [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com)

**Email:** [info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com](mailto:info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com)

**Call:** 877.657.9934

Minnesota Power  
30 West Superior Street  
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

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August XX, 2013

NAME

TITLE

ADDRESS

ADDRESS

**RE: Update on Great Northern Transmission Line and Invitation to Upcoming Open House Meetings**

Dear,

Minnesota Power, in the interest of partnership, wants to share with you the latest information about the Great Northern Transmission Line. There are two main updates you should know: 1) an additional round of open house meetings will be held in September to gather comments and input from stakeholders across the 500 kV transmission line route alternatives; and 2) the routing and permitting schedule for the 345 kV double-circuit transmission line segment from the Iron Range to near Duluth, Minn. is being deferred for the time being. Minnesota Power expects permitting on this segment will not commence for at least a few years.

The Great Northern Transmission Line will consist of two transmission lines:

- Phase 1: 500 kV transmission line from the Canadian border to Minnesota's Iron Range
- Phase 2: 345 kV double-circuit transmission line from the Iron Range to near Duluth, Minn.

Minnesota Power fully anticipates both phases of the Project will be constructed; however, the 500 kV line is our initial priority. Therefore, Minnesota Power is moving forward with the routing, siting, and permitting process for Phase 1 of the Project and will focus on the Certificate of Need and Route Permit Applications to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the Presidential Permit Application to the United States Department of Energy for the 500 kV transmission line.

Minnesota Power has developed and refined route alternatives for the Project based largely on stakeholder input and will host its third round of open house meetings at 13 locations throughout the Project area during the weeks of September 9 and September 16, 2013.

The following tables provide detailed information for each of the open house meetings. You are encouraged to attend and share your feedback with the Project Team. Minnesota Power is also hosting an online open house meeting for those who cannot attend or want more information. Visit us online at [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/online-meeting](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/online-meeting) from September 8 – September 29, 2013. We also encourage you to review the enclosed map (Figure 1) for these refined route alternatives.



® **minnesota power** / 30 west superior street / duluth, minnesota 55802-2093 / 218-722-5642 / [www.mnpower.com](http://www.mnpower.com)

Date & Time	Venue Name & Address	Date & Time	Venue Name & Address
Week 1		Week 2	
Monday September 9 <sup>th</sup> 5-7pm	<b>Clear Waters Life Center</b> 256 2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue SW Clearbrook, MN 56634	Monday September 16 <sup>th</sup> 5-7pm	<b>Taconite Community Center</b> 26 Haynes Street South Taconite, MN 55786
Tuesday September 10 <sup>th</sup> 11am-1pm	<b>Grygla Community Center</b> 127 S Main Ave Grygla, MN 56727	Tuesday September 17 <sup>th</sup> 5-7pm	<b>Blackduck Public High School</b> 156 1 <sup>st</sup> Street NE Blackduck, MN 56630
Tuesday September 10 <sup>h</sup> 5-7pm	<b>Ralph Engelstad Arena Imperial Room</b> 525 Brooks Avenue North Thief River Falls, MN 56701	Wednesday September 18 <sup>th</sup> 11am-1pm	<b>Littlefork Community Center</b> 220 Main Street Littlefork, MN 56653
Wednesday September 11 <sup>th</sup> 11am-1pm	<b>Lancaster Community Center</b> 118 Central Ave S Lancaster, MN 56735	Wednesday September 18 <sup>th</sup> 5-7pm	<b>Northome Public School</b> 11731 MN Hwy 1 Northome, MN
Thursday September 12 <sup>th</sup> 11am-1pm	<b>Greenbush Community Center</b> 244 Main St N Greenbush, MN 56726	Thursday September 19 <sup>th</sup> 11am-1pm	<b>Bigfork City Hall</b> 200 Main Ave Bigfork, MN 56628
Thursday September 12 <sup>th</sup> 5-7pm	<b>Roseau Civic Center</b> 121 Center Street East Roseau, MN 56751	Thursday September 19 <sup>th</sup> 5-7pm	<b>Timber Lake Lodge</b> 144 SE 17 <sup>th</sup> Street Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Friday September 13 <sup>th</sup> 11am-1pm	<b>Baudette Ambulance Garage</b> 111 First Ave SW Baudette, MN 56623		

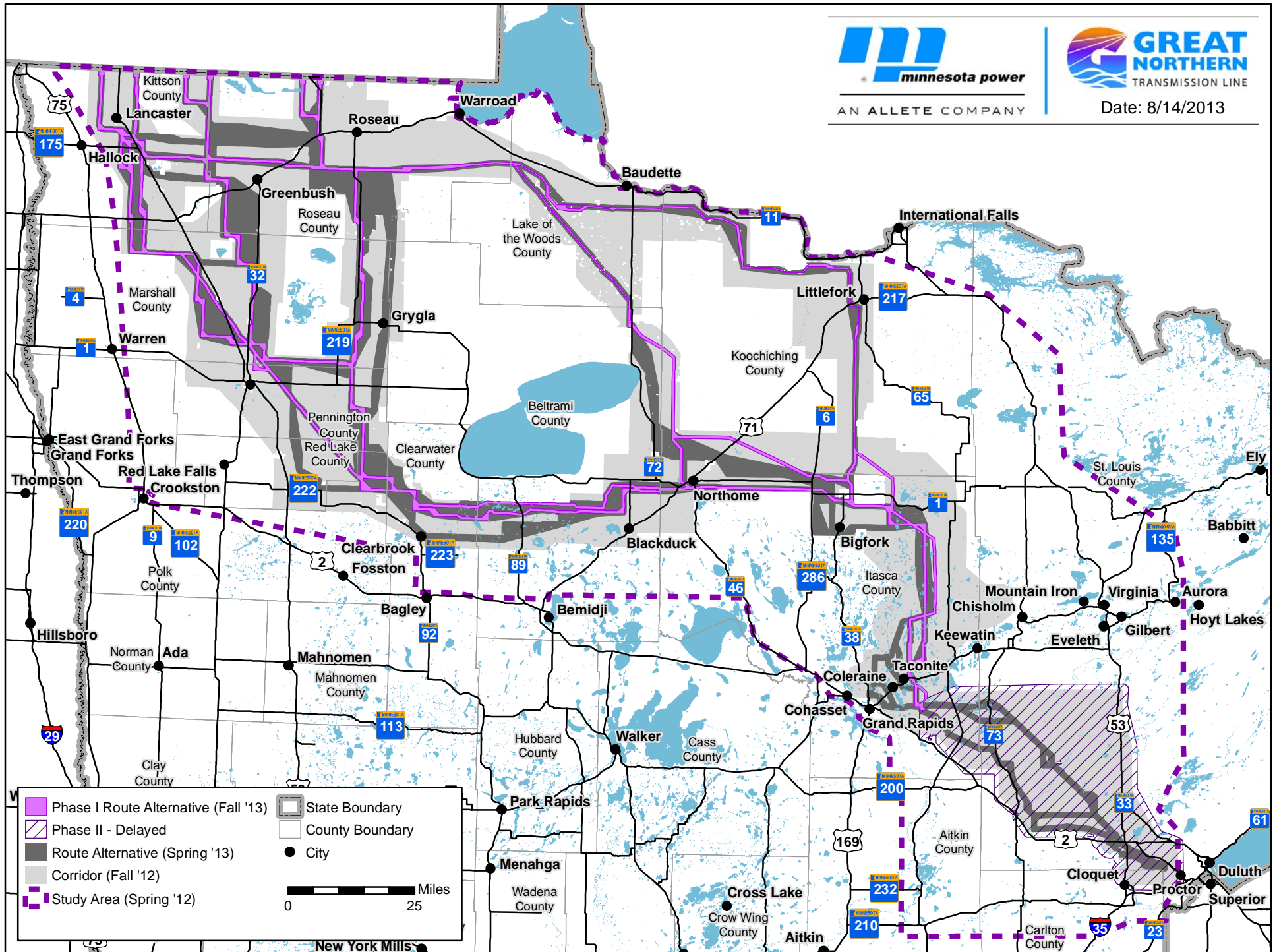
Minnesota Power appreciates your participation in the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and looks forward to working with you. For more information, visit our Project website at [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com) or call our Project information line at (877) 657-9934. If you have questions or comments, please contact Jim Atkinson at (218) 355-3561 or [jbatkinson@allete.com](mailto:jbatkinson@allete.com).

Sincerely,

Jim Atkinson  
Environmental Lead  
Minnesota Power  
[jbatkinson@mnpower.com](mailto:jbatkinson@mnpower.com)

Mike Donahue  
Project Manager  
Minnesota Power  
[mdonahue@mnpower.com](mailto:mdonahue@mnpower.com)

Enclosures: Figure 1 – Route Alternatives Map



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# Open House Meetings

## Round 4 – Additional Route Alternatives

[Comment Form](#)

[Display Boards](#)

[Handout](#)

[Invitation Letter](#)

[Meeting Summary](#)

[Paid Advertisement](#)



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Thank you for providing input regarding the Great Northern Transmission Line. Please fill out the comment form below to submit a comment or join the mailing list. You can also submit a comment or join the mailing list online at [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to join our mailing list? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Comment:**

Please fold, fasten, and mail. No envelope necessary.

Place  
Stamp  
Here

**Great Northern Transmission Line Team**  
**c/o HDR Engineering**  
**701 Xenia Ave South, 600**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55416**

## The purpose of this meeting is to:

- Provide information about the project.
- Explain our routing process.
- Answer your questions.
- Gather your input!

## Meeting regional needs

### DIVERSITY

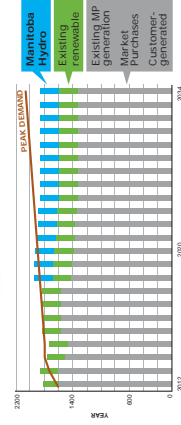
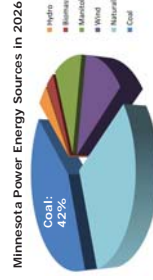
Provides access to clean, affordable, reliable energy for Minnesota Power customers and the region.

### INCREASING DEMAND

Helps to meet increased energy demand from Minnesota's Iron Range.

### RELIABILITY

Strengthens system reliability for Minnesota Power and the region.



## The project will consist of two phases:

- Phase 1: 500 kV transmission line from Canadian border to Minnesota's Iron Range.
- Phase 2: 345 kV double circuit transmission line from the Iron Range to near Duluth, Minnesota.

## Who is Minnesota Power?

- We serve 144,000 retail customers, 16 wholesale municipalities, and some of the nation's largest industrial customers.
- We are an investor-owned utility.
- Our interconnected transmission network promotes reliability in the upper Midwest.



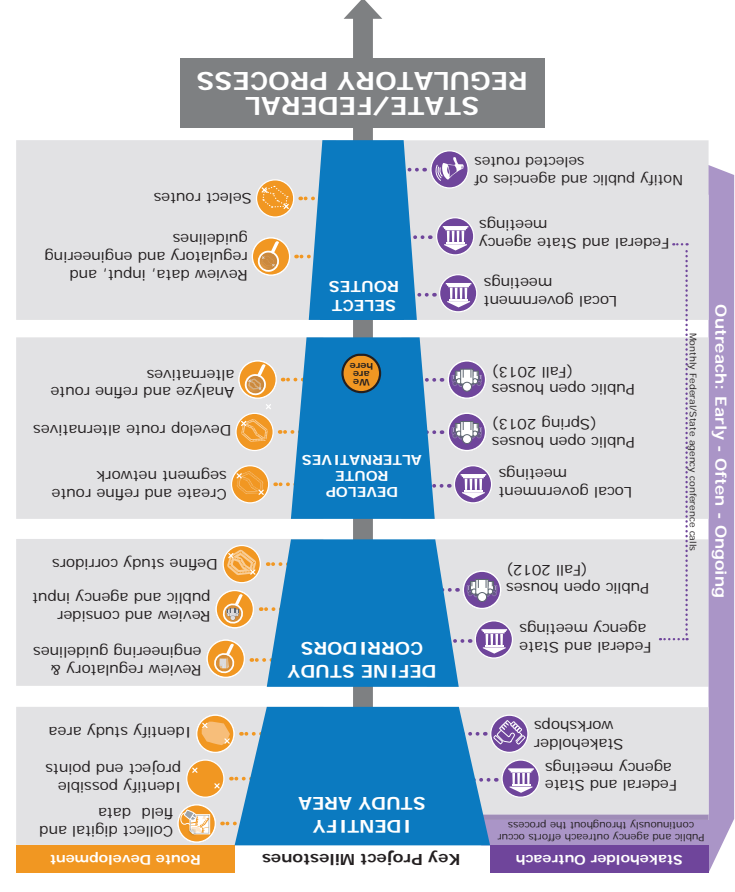
Minnesota Power's Area of Operation

## Project timeline for Phase 1: 500 kV line

WE ARE HERE

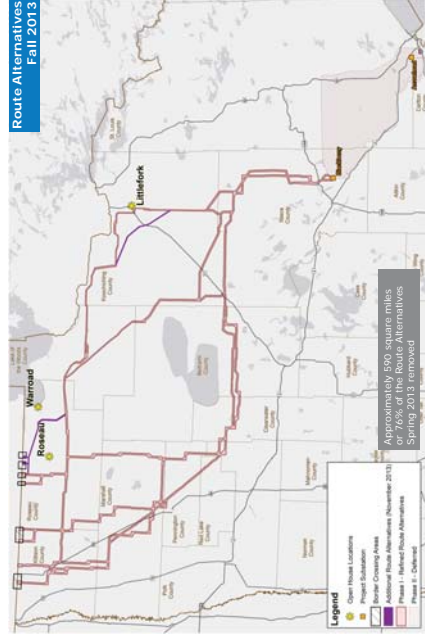
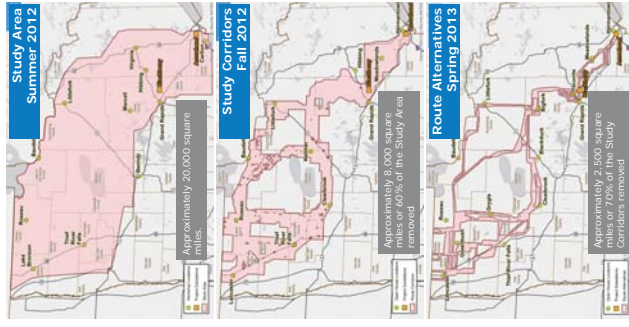


## Routing Process





# Route Alternatives



## What criteria do we use to develop the routes?

- Public and agency meetings held throughout the project help guide the development of the routing criteria.

Opportunities	Constraints	Technical Guidelines
Existing facilities that are compatible with new transmission line.	Existing facilities that impede transmission line development.	Policy and engineering requirements.
<b>Examples include:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roads</li> <li>Railroads</li> <li>Pipelines</li> <li>Property lines</li> <li>Field lines</li> </ul>	<b>Examples include:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Homes</li> <li>Schools</li> <li>Churches</li> <li>Agricultural activities</li> <li>Wetlands</li> <li>State Parks</li> <li>Archaeological Sites</li> </ul>	<b>Examples include:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimize length, cost, design, non-standard designs</li> <li>Ensure reliable and safe construction and operation</li> <li>Constructability</li> </ul>



# Local Economic Benefits

The University of Minnesota Duluth Labovitz School's Bureau of Business and Economic Research conducted an **independent economic study** for the Great Northern Transmission Line. The analysis includes estimated economic impacts to the project area for Phase I of the project.

GENERATE NEARLY  
**\$229<sup>M</sup>**

STATE & LOCAL  
TAX REVENUE

CREATE OR SUPPORT  
**286**  
JOBS

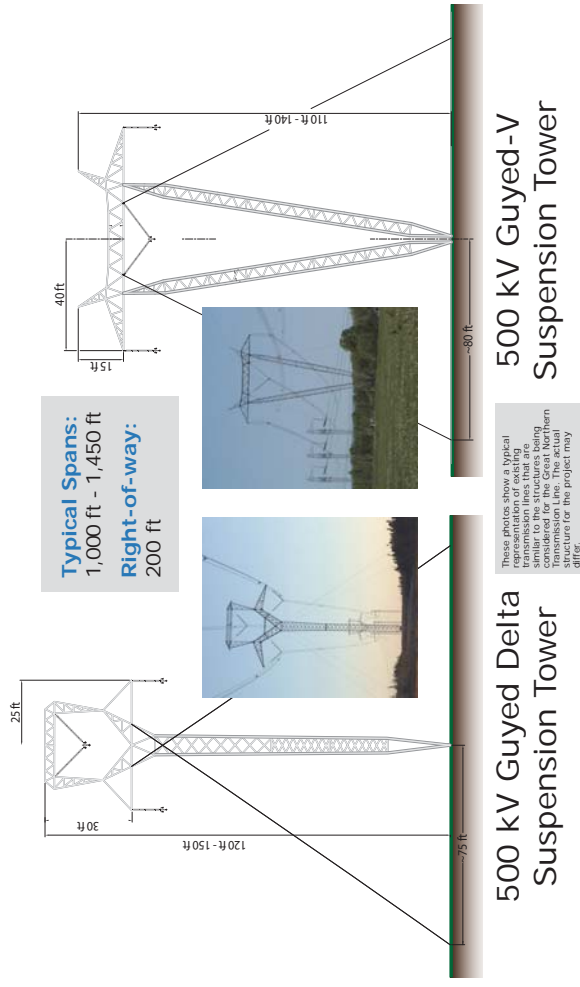
CONTRIBUTE NEARLY  
**\$1.3<sup>B</sup>**  
TO THE LOCAL  
ECONOMY

- **\$28.9M** in state and local taxes are estimated to be generated through compensation, business, household, and corporation taxes.
- **213 jobs** are estimated to be directly created for construction activities.
- **73 jobs** are estimated to be added in industries like food service, healthcare, building and professional services, retail, wholesale, etc.
- **Nearly \$875.2M** are estimated to impact the local economy through direct and indirect spending on goods and services needed to support construction activities.
- **Nearly \$399.2M** are estimated to impact the local economy through direct and indirect spending on wages, rents, interest, and profits.

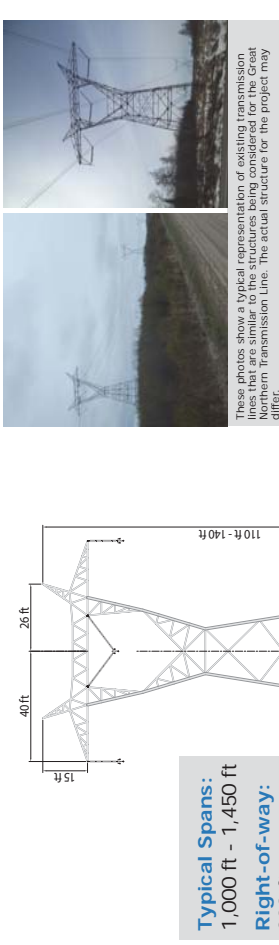


# Preliminary 500 kV Structure Design

Predominantly in Remote & Wet Areas



# Preliminary 500 kV Structure Design

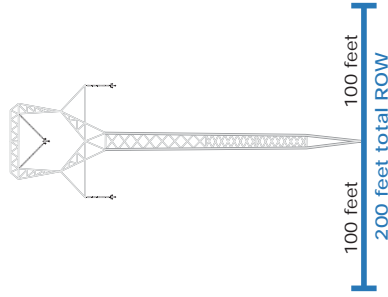


## 500 kV Self-Supporting Suspension Tower

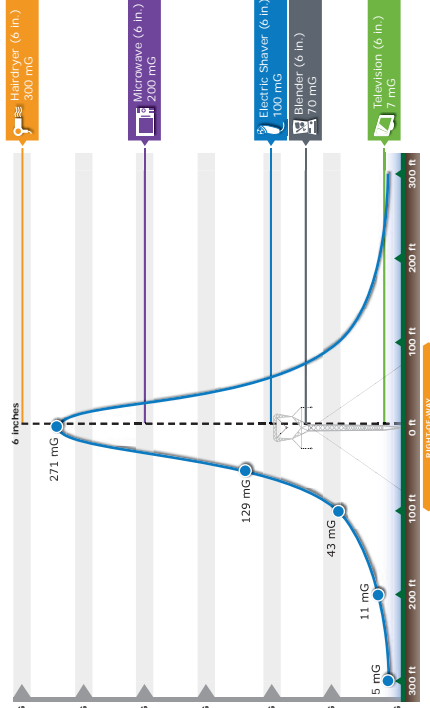
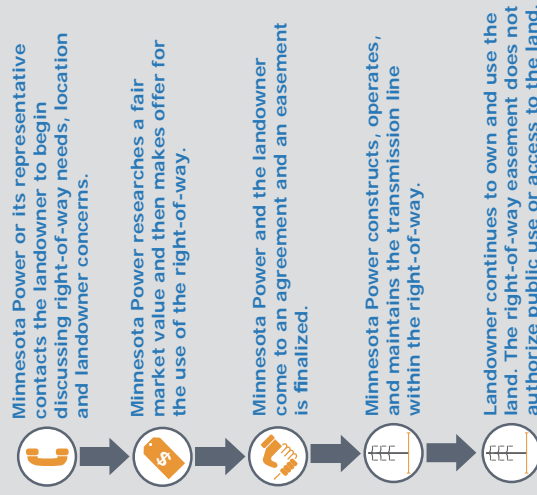
## WHAT IS RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW)?

**ROW Definition:** Typically a strip of land used for a public purpose such as the construction, operation, and maintenance of a road or transmission line.

**ROW Width:** This project typically requires 200 ft of ROW (100 ft on each side of the centerline).

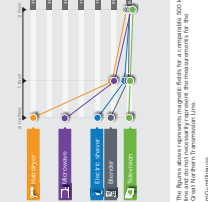


## RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION PROCESS



## EMF decrease rapidly with distance from the source

Exposures to magnetic field directly beneath a 500 kV transmission line is similar to that of a hair dryer or a microwave at a distance of 6 inches.



\* The above chart is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used for legal or regulatory purposes.

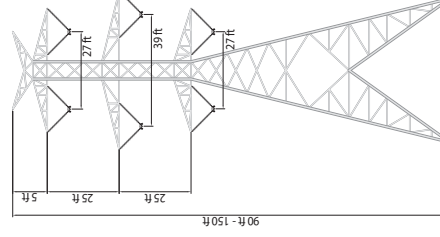
## Current Health Research

"The Minnesota Department of Health concludes that the current body of evidence is insufficient to establish a cause and effect relationship between EMF and adverse health effects." (page 36, A White Paper on Electric and Magnetic Field Policy and Mitigation Options, 2002)

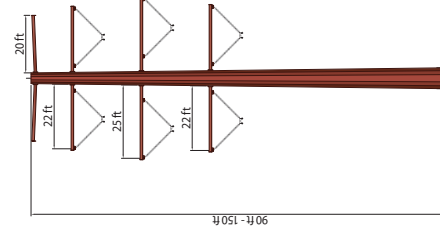
"Much of the research about power lines and potential health effects is inconclusive...the evidence available is weak and is not sufficient to establish a definitive cause-effect relationship." (www.epa.gov/radon/pdfs/21711n.pdf, accessed 10/2/2012)

## How to stay informed and give us your input:

- Visit our website at: [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com)
- Submit a comment at a meeting or online
- Call our toll-free information line: **877.657.9934**
- Join our mailing list
- Email us at: [info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com](mailto:info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com)

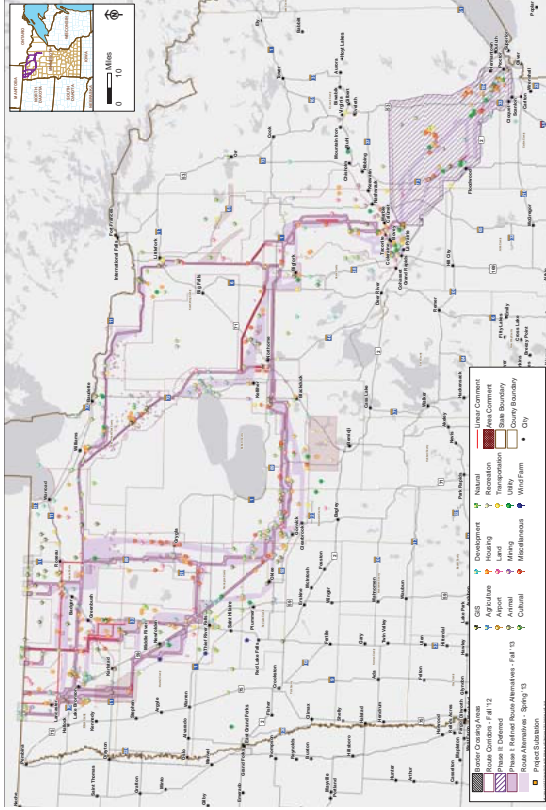


345 kV Double Circuit Lattice Tower



345 kV Double Circuit Steel Pole





Over the past year, your comments have been gathered, reviewed and analyzed.

814 mapping  
comments have  
been collected.

Input was gathered via:

- Stakeholder workshops
- Two rounds of public open house meetings
- Comment forms
- Website
- Hotline
- Agency meetings

We used your input to:

- Identify all occupied homes
- Understand routing opportunities and constraints

- Identify significant community features
- Identify route alternatives to minimize impacts

# Regulatory Process

## MINNESOTA

A **Certificate of Need (CN)** and a **Route Permit (RP)** from the MN Public Utilities Commission (PUC) are required. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is also required.

[illegible]

## FEDERAL

**A Federal Presidential Permit** from the Dept. of Energy is required because the project crosses the U.S./Canada border. An EIS is also required.

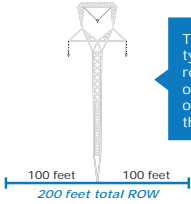
## Upcoming Public Involvement Opportunities

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  | <b>NOW:</b> Sign up for PUC's CN mailing list at <a href="http://www.puc.state.tx.us">www.puc.state.tx.us</a> under the "Docket No. E013/CN-12-1163" link.                           |
|  | <b>EARLY 2014:</b> Watch for notice of the PUC's CN Scoping Meeting or provide written comments – Hosted by MN Department of Commerce  |
|  | <b>APRIL 2014:</b> Sign up for PUC's PR mailing list at <a href="http://www.puc.state.tx.us">www.puc.state.tx.us</a> (Docket to be determined)                                       |
|  | <b>APRIL 2014:</b> Watch for notice and attend CN Hearing or provide written comments – hosted by PUC/Administrative Law Judge   |
|  | <b>MAY 2014:</b> Watch for notice and attend PR Scoping Meeting or provide written comments – hosted by MN Department of Commerce  |
|  | <b>ONGOING:</b> Sign up for MP's quarterly newsletter, Great Northern Connection, online at <a href="http://www.greatnortherntransmission.com">www.greatnortherntransmission.com</a> |

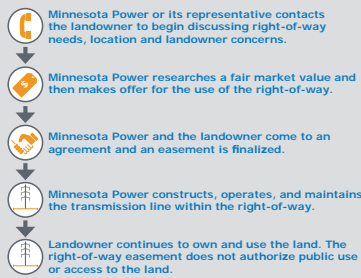
## ► Right-of-way acquisition process

### What is ROW?

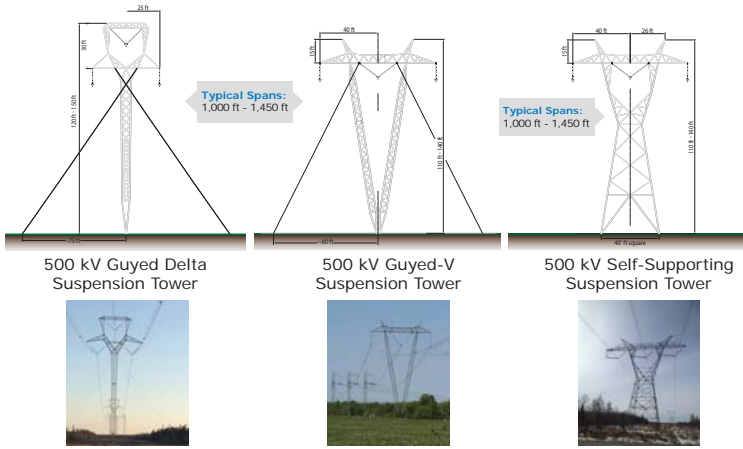
Typically a strip of land used for a public purpose such as the construction, operation, and maintenance of a road or transmission line.



This project typically requires 200 ft of ROW (100 ft on each side of the centerline).



## ► Preliminary 500 kV Structure Design



These photos show a typical representation of existing transmission lines that are similar to the structures being considered for the project. The actual structure for the project may differ.

For more information or to provide input:

Visit us online: [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com)  
Call our toll-free hotline: 1-877-657-9934  
Email us: [info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com](mailto:info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com)



## WELCOME!

- This meeting is intended to:
1. Provide project information
  2. Explain our routing process
  3. Answer your questions
  4. Gather your input to help us select routes for the state and federal permitting processes

Fill out the enclosed comment form to give us your input!

## What is the project?

The Great Northern Transmission Line will carry hydropower from Manitoba Hydro to Minnesota Power's customers to bring clean, emission-free energy into Minnesota. The Great Northern Transmission Line will consist of two transmission lines:

- **Phase 1:** 500 kV transmission line from the Canadian border to Minnesota's Iron Range, and
- **Phase 2:** 345 kV double circuit transmission line from the Iron Range to near Duluth, Minnesota.

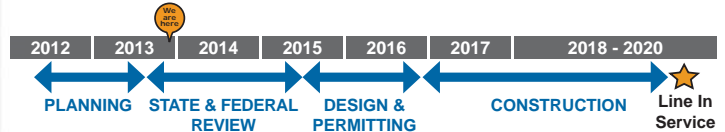
Minnesota Power is moving forward with the routing, siting, and permitting process for Phase 1. We fully anticipate both phases of the Project to be constructed; however, the 500 kV line is our initial priority. Phase 2 has been deferred until further notice.

## Why are we hosting more public meetings?

Minnesota Power has identified two additional route alternatives as potential routing options. Because these additional route alternatives were recently developed, Minnesota Power is hosting three open house meetings to collect input and feedback on the two new routes. We appreciate your participation.

## What is the Phase 1 project schedule?

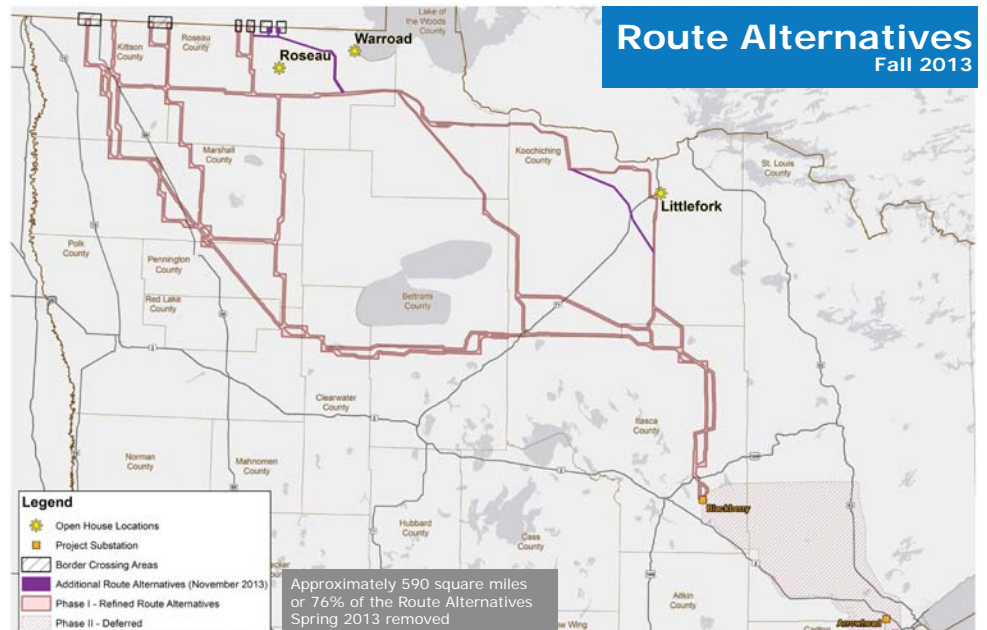
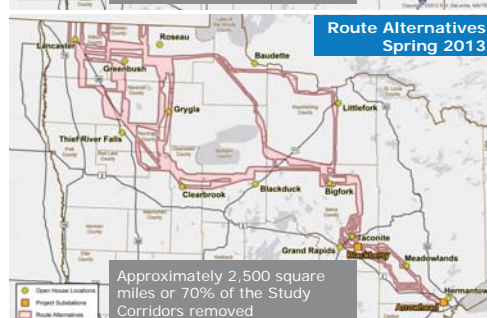
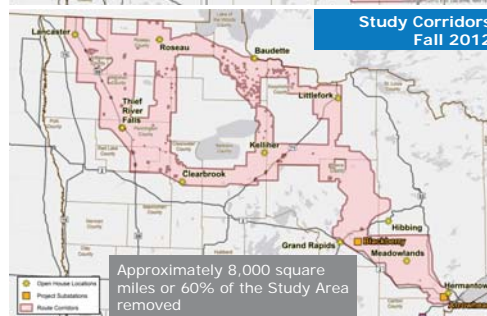
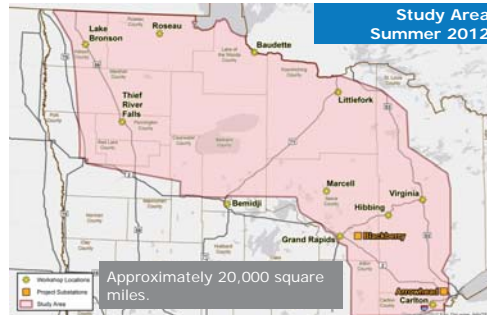
The project schedule is driven by state and federal regulatory requirements and the required June 2020 in-service date.



## How can I stay involved?

### Upcoming Public Involvement Opportunities

- NOW:** Sign up for the Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) Certificate of Need (CN) mailing list at [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us) in Docket No. E015/CN-12-1163
- APRIL 2014:** Sign up for PUC's Route Permit (RP) mailing list at [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us) (Docket to be determined)
- APRIL 2014:** Watch for notice and attend CN Hearing or provide written comments – hosted by PUC/Administrative Law Judge
- MAY 2014:** Watch for notice and attend RP Scoping Meeting or provide written comments – hosted by MN Department of Commerce
- ONGOING:** Sign up for Minnesota Power's quarterly newsletter, *Great Northern News*, or visit us online at [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com)



## HOW DID WE GET HERE?

In Summer 2012, the original Study Area covered approximately 20,000 square miles. Through the routing process, Minnesota Power refined the Study Area into Study Corridors, then further into Route Alternatives. Throughout this process, Minnesota Power considered factors that were either compatible ("opportunities") or incompatible ("constraints") with line development, engineering and regulatory guidelines, agency feedback and public input.

### SELECTING ROUTES TO SUBMIT FOR STATE/FEDERAL REVIEW

The current Phase 1 Route Alternatives cover approximately 590 square miles. The two or more routes submitted through the state and federal permitting processes will cover even less area than the current Route Alternatives. The final route will be determined through the regulatory process.

>> NEXT STEP: PERMITTING AND DESIGN

October XX, 2013

NAME  
ADDRESS  
ADDRESS

**RE: Open House Invitation along Additional Route Alternatives for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line**

Dear NAME,

Minnesota Power is proposing to build Phase 1 of the Great Northern Transmission Line, a 500 kV transmission line from the Canadian border to Minnesota's Iron Range. Over the past 18 months, Minnesota Power has developed and refined route alternatives for the Project based on stakeholder input during three rounds of open house meetings and comment collection along with routing guidelines, industry best-practice routing criteria, and engineering and environmental considerations.

Minnesota Power has identified two additional route alternatives as potential routing options. Because these additional route alternatives were recently developed, Minnesota Power is hosting three open house meetings to collect input and feedback on the two additional routes. Minnesota Power invites you to attend an open house meeting hosted in your area on November 12 and 13. A map of the additional route alternatives is enclosed. Detailed maps are online at [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/map/](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/map/). ***We request your input and participation on the route alternatives in your area and encourage your comments as we work to identify routes for our Route Permit Application.***


Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, November 12	11 am – 1 pm	<b>Roseau Civic Center</b> 121 Center Street East Roseau, MN 56751
Tuesday, November 12	5 – 7 pm	<b>American Legion</b> 410 East Lake Street Warroad, MN 56763
Wednesday, November 13	11 am – 1 pm	<b>Littlefork Community Center</b> 220 Main Street Littlefork, MN 56653

We greatly appreciate your involvement in the Project. For more information or to provide input, visit our Project website at [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com), call our Project information line at (877) 657-9934, or email our Project at [info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com](mailto:info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com).

Sincerely,



Jim Atkinson, Environmental Lead  
Minnesota Power  
[jbatkinson@mnpower.com](mailto:jbatkinson@mnpower.com)

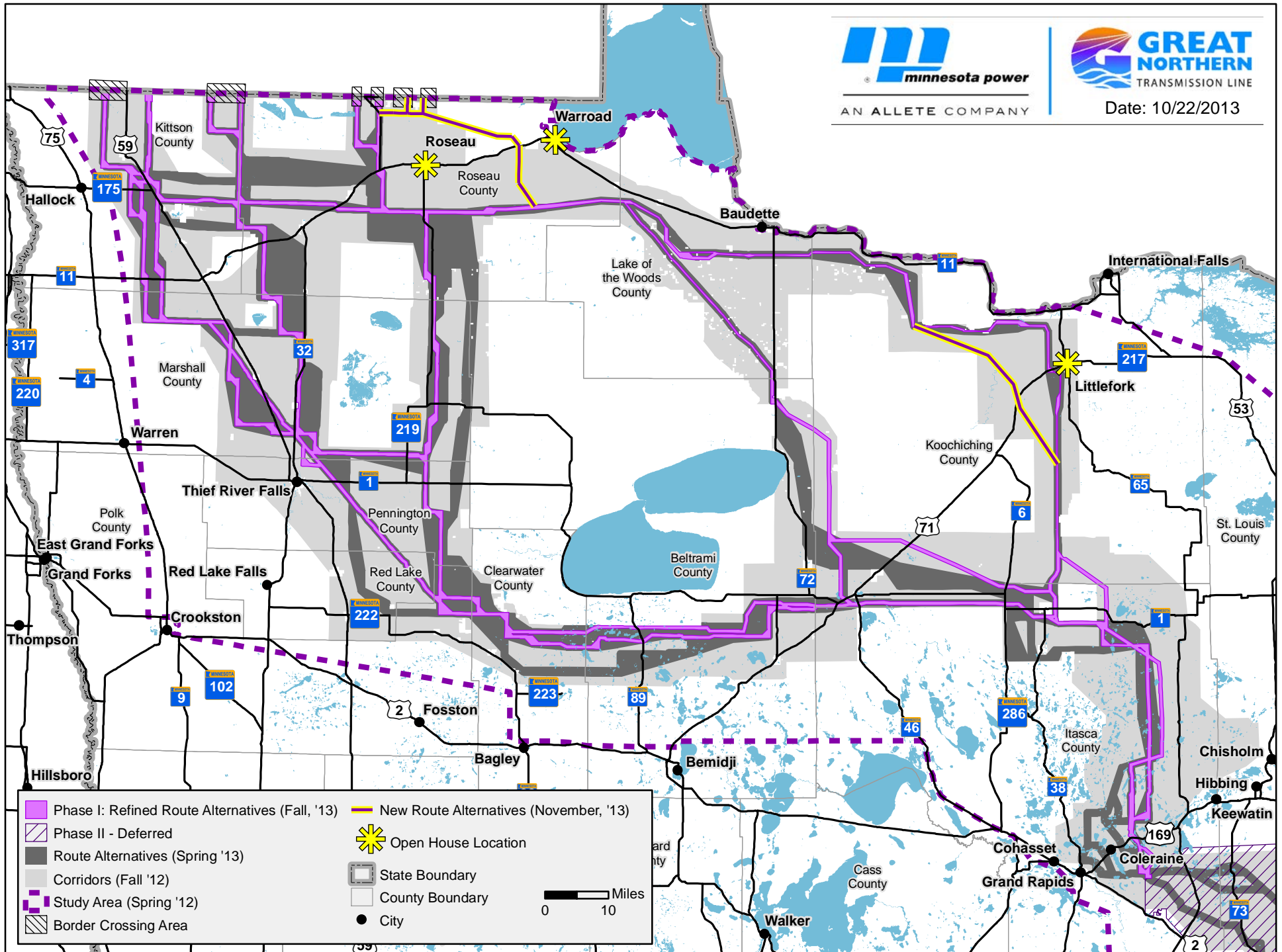


Mike Donahue, Project Manager  
Minnesota Power  
[mdonahue@mnpower.com](mailto:mdonahue@mnpower.com)

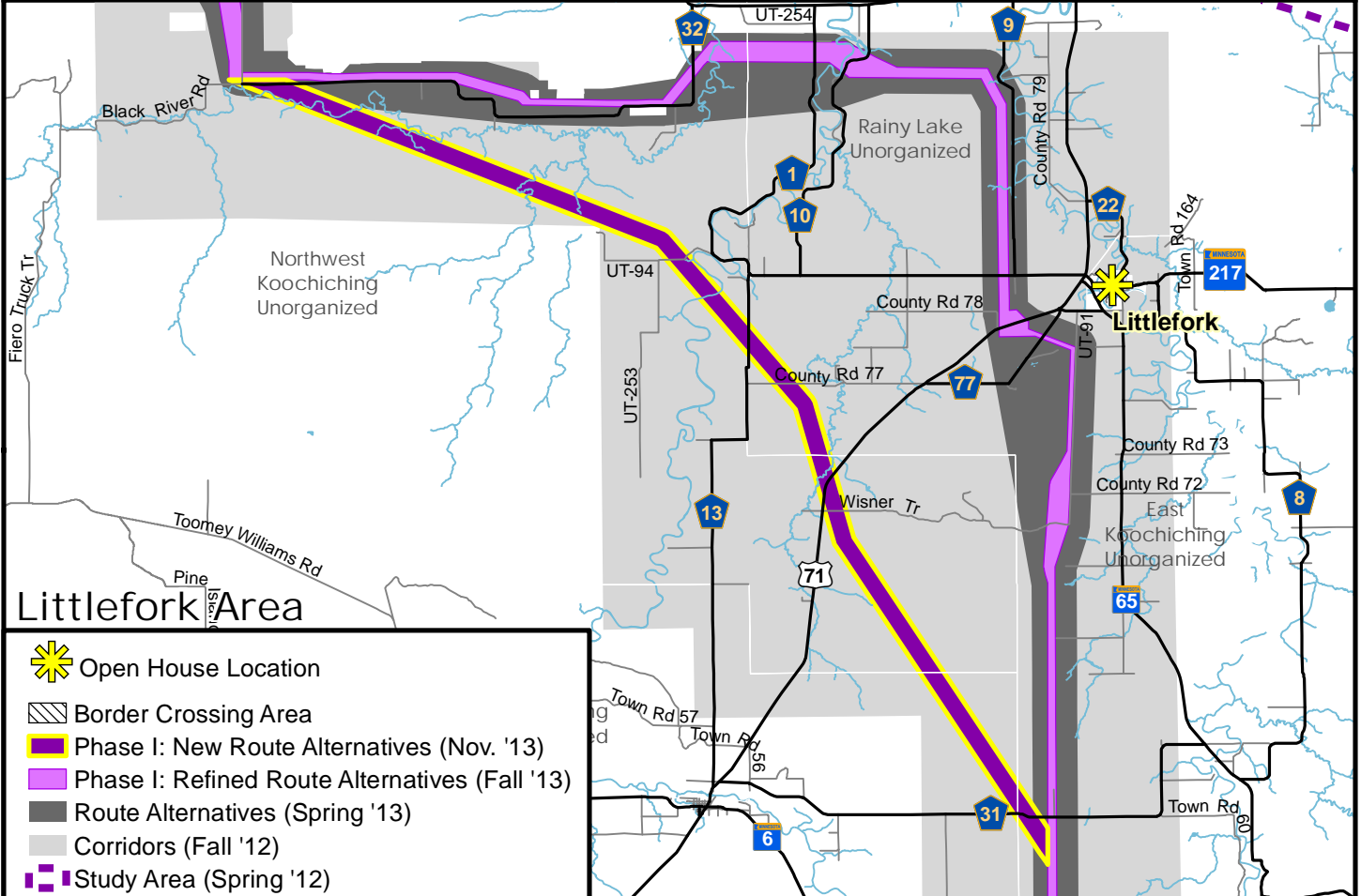
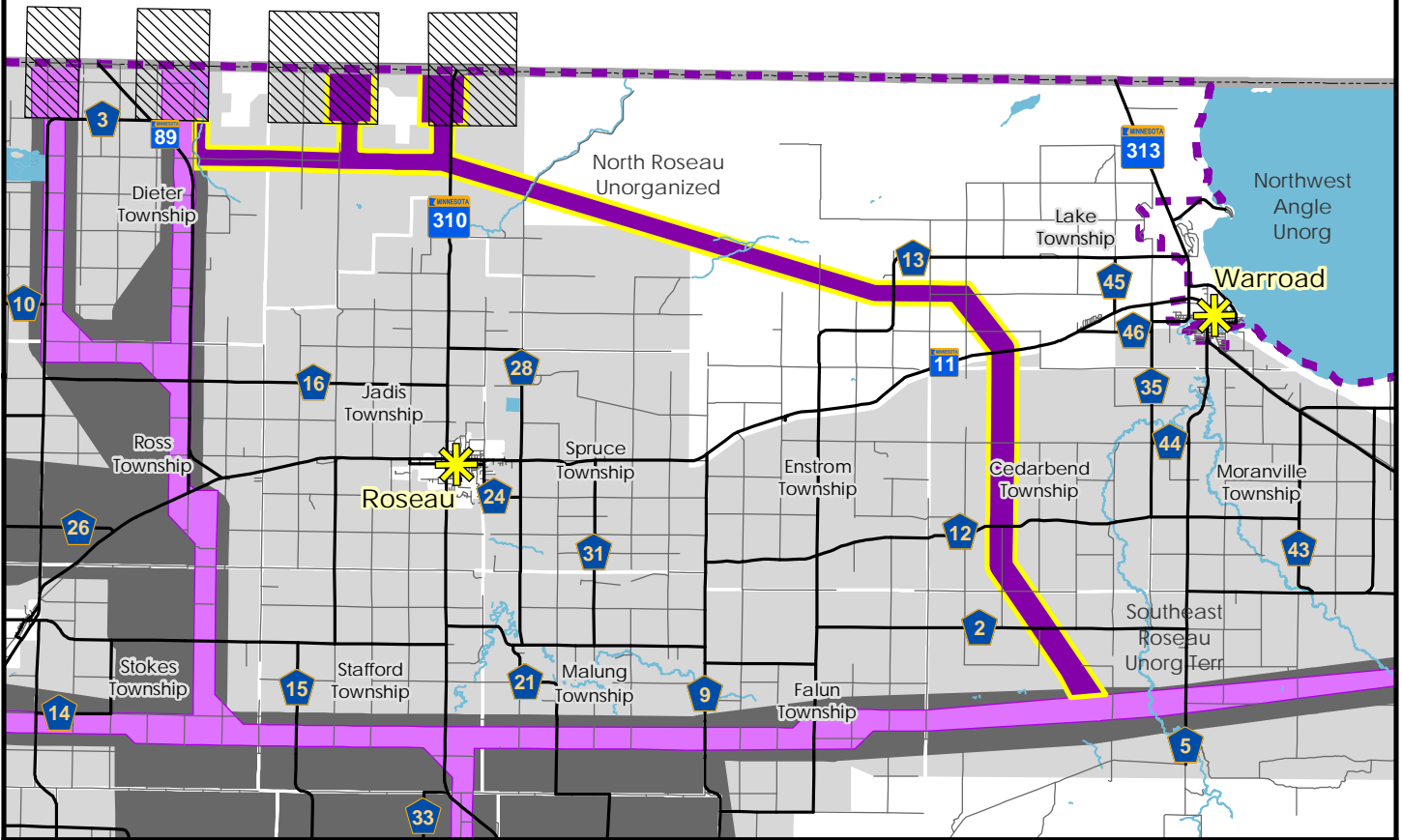
Enclosures: Figure 1 – Route Alternatives Map

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# Roseau / Warroad Area



## Littlefork Area

- Open House Location
- Border Crossing Area
- Phase I: New Route Alternatives (Nov. '13)
- Phase I: Refined Route Alternatives (Fall '13)
- Route Alternatives (Spring '13)
- Corridors (Fall '12)
- Study Area (Spring '12)

# November 2013 Additional Routing Open House Meeting Summary

## I. Summary

Minnesota Power hosted three in-person public open house meetings November 12-13 2013. These meetings were held to gather input from local stakeholders and the public on additional narrowed proposed route alternative segments of the Great Northern Transmission Line. See Appendix A to see the additional narrowed routes and meeting locations.

### a. Meeting Attendance

A total of 148 invitees attended the meetings. A table of attendance by meeting is located in Section III.

### b. Meeting Materials

- Overview handout
- Comment form
- Exit Survey form
- Two sets of Information Boards:
  - Project overview
  - Meeting regional needs
  - Local economics
  - Route alternatives (new since Sep 2013)
  - Routing process
  - Regulatory process (new since Sep 2013)
  - Preliminary structure design (3)
  - Typical structures
  - Right-of-way acquisition process
  - Electric & Magnetic Fields (EMF)
- Sign-in sheets
- Resource materials:
  - MP Energy Forward program overview
  - EMF handout
  - Copies of information boards
- Two GIS mapping stations
- Large aerial maps

## II. Outreach

The following forms of communication were used to reach out to stakeholders and landowners within the project study corridors to promote the open house meetings.

### a. Mailings

Landowners within the areas surrounding the route segments were sent postcard letters and maps inviting them to the open house meetings. In total, there were 3,696 mailings sent. Local elected officials in the cities and townships near the meeting locations were notified. For landowners, information was collected from tax records in the cities and townships in the identified areas. Previous Roseau, Warroad, and Littlefork open house attendees were also invited. All mailings directed recipients to the project hotline number (877.657.9934), email ([info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com](mailto:info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com)), and website ([www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com)) for more information about the project and meetings.

# November 2013 Additional Routing Open House Meeting Summary

## b. Media

Paid advertisements that listed meeting dates and times were sent to three publications in the cities where open house meetings were being held. The publications and run date of the ads can be seen in the table below. In addition, representatives from a radio station in Roseau (Jack Swanson), the Warroad Pioneer, and the International Falls Journals attended the open house meetings.

**Table 1: Paid Advertisement Run Date**

Publication	Run Date
Roseau Times-Region	Saturday, November 2
Warroad Pioneer	Tuesday, November 5
The Littlefork Times	Friday, November 8

## III. Open House Overview

**Table 2: Number of Attendees per Meeting Location**

Date & Time	Meeting	Attendees
Tues, Nov 12 11am-1pm	Roseau	69
Tues, Nov 12 5-7pm	Warroad	29
Wed, Nov 13 11am-1pm	Littlefork	50
<b>Totals</b>		<b>148</b>



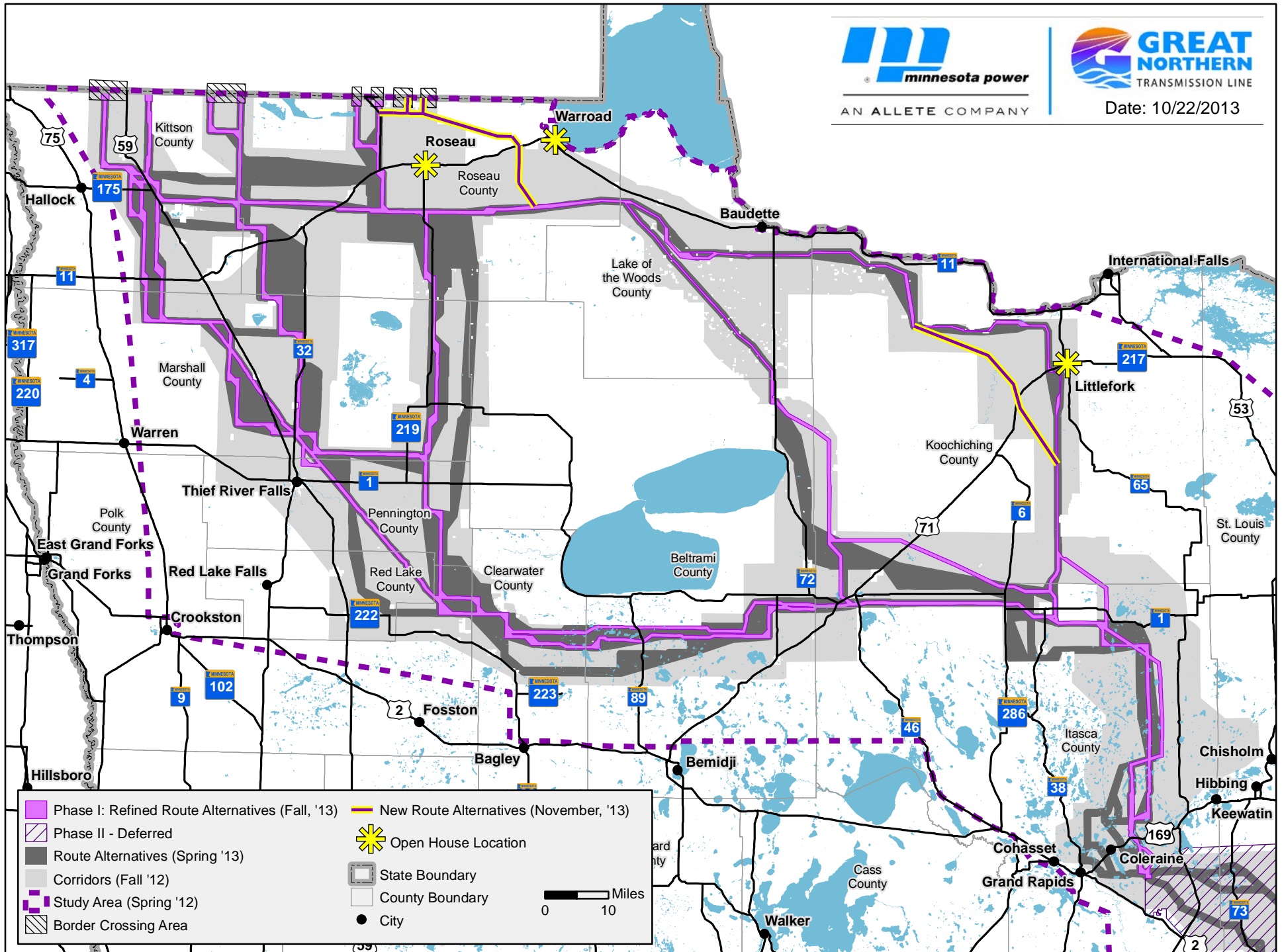


# November 2013 Additional Routing Open House Meeting Summary

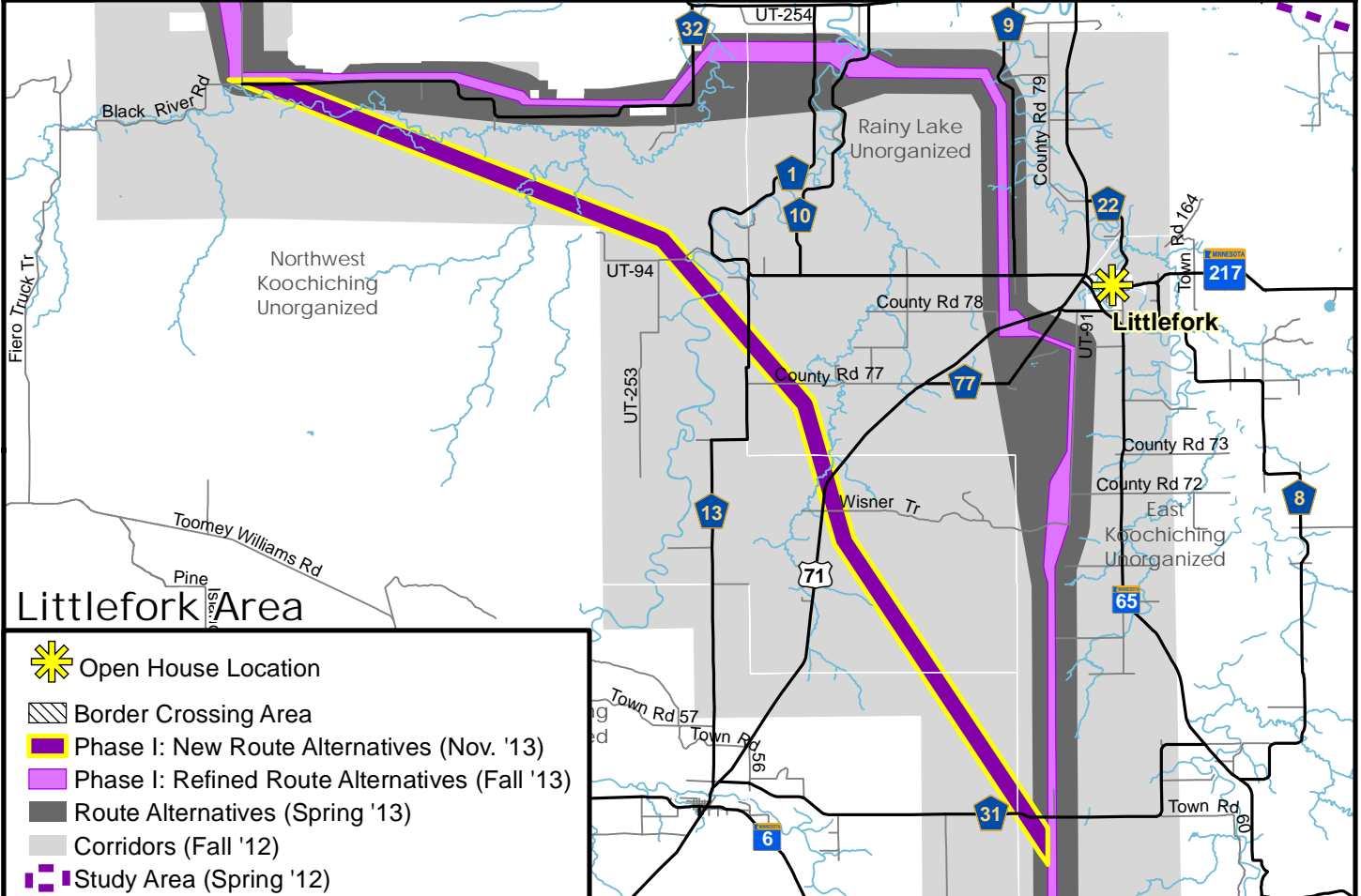
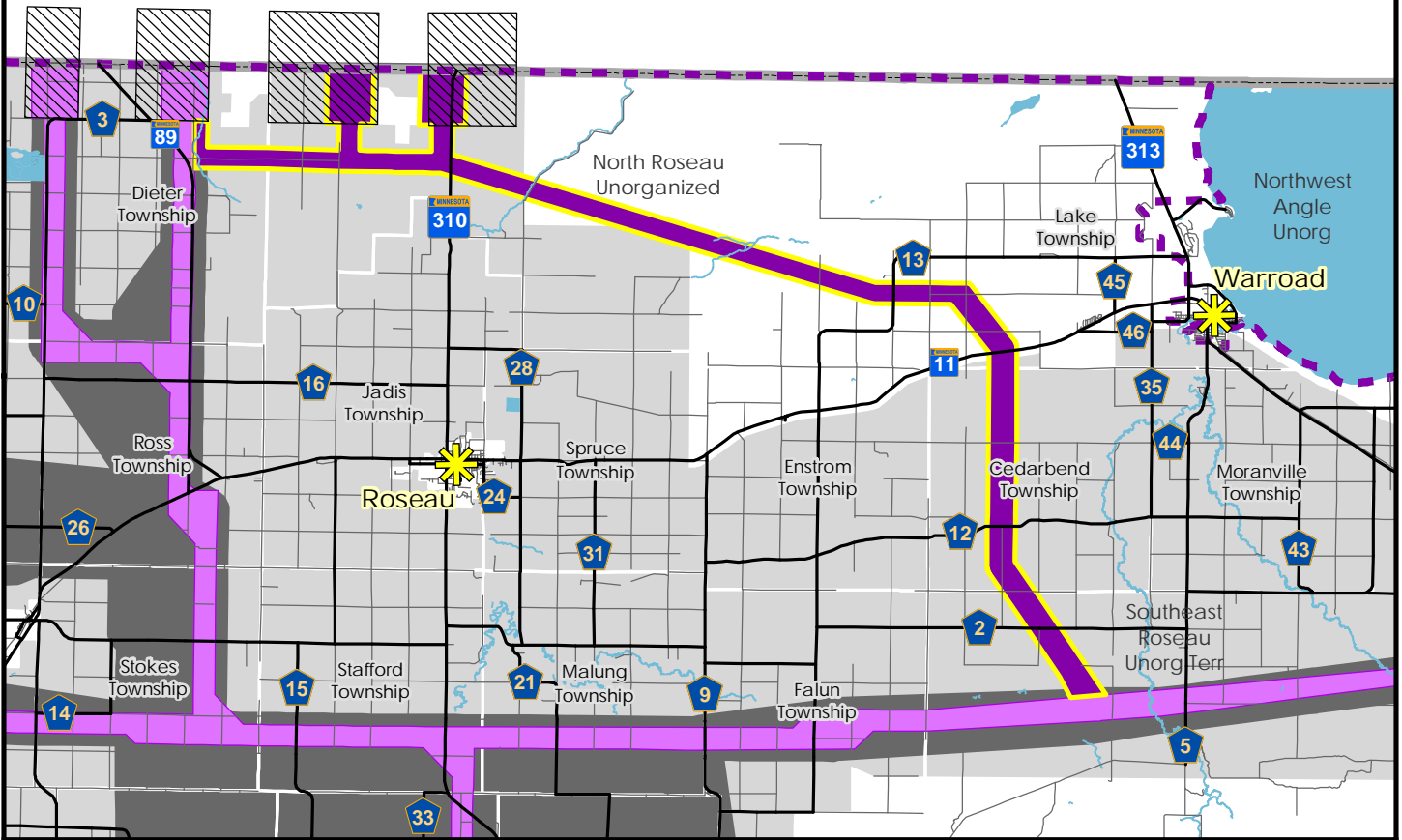
## Appendix A

### Additional Route Information







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# Roseau / Warroad Area



## Littlefork Area

-  Open House Location
-  Border Crossing Area
-  Phase I: New Route Alternatives (Nov. '13)
-  Phase I: Refined Route Alternatives (Fall '13)
-  Route Alternatives (Spring '13)
-  Corridors (Fall '12)
-  Study Area (Spring '12)

Join us at an open house meeting near you.



AN ALLETE COMPANY



Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

Minnesota Power is hosting public open house meetings for the proposed **Great Northern Transmission Line** from the Canadian border to the Iron Range. The line will deliver hydropower from Manitoba Hydro to customers in the U.S. We hope to gather your input to help


us evaluate additional route alternatives as potential routing options. Because these route alternatives were recently developed, Minnesota Power is hosting three open house meetings to collect input and feedback on the new routes.


**Attend a meeting to:**


- Learn about the project
- Review and provide input on the new route alternatives
- Discuss the routing process with project team members


Date & Time	Venue Name & Address
<b>Tues, Nov 12th</b> <b>11am-1pm</b>	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street East, Roseau, MN 56751
<b>Tues, Nov 12th</b> <b>5-7pm</b>	American Legion 410 East Lake Street, Warroad, MN 56763
<b>Wed, Nov 13th</b> <b>11am-1pm</b>	Littlefork Community Center 220 Main Street, Littlefork, MN 56653



 Open House Location

 Phase I: New Route Alternatives (Nov. '13)

 Phase I: Refined Route Alternatives (Fall '13)

 Stream / River

 City

Looking for a detailed map? Visit us online at  
[www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/map/](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/map/)

**Contact Us**

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Email us at [info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com](mailto:info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com)

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Join us at an open house meeting near you.



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Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

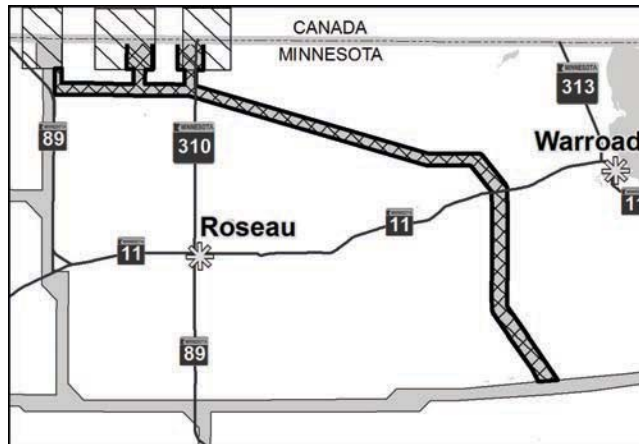
Minnesota Power is hosting public open house meetings for the proposed **Great Northern Transmission Line** from the Canadian border to the Iron Range. The line will deliver hydropower from Manitoba Hydro to customers in the U.S. We hope to gather your input to help

us evaluate additional route alternatives as potential routing options. Because these route alternatives were recently developed, Minnesota Power is hosting three open house meetings to collect input and feedback on the new routes.

**Attend a meeting to:**

- Learn about the project
- Review and provide input on the new route alternatives
- Discuss the routing process with project team members

Date & Time	Venue Name & Address
<b>Tues, Nov 12th 11am-1pm</b>	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street East, Roseau, MN 56751
<b>Tues, Nov 12th 5-7pm</b>	American Legion 410 East Lake Street, Warroad, MN 56763
<b>Wed, Nov 13th 11am-1pm</b>	Littlefork Community Center 220 Main Street, Littlefork, MN 56653



✱ Open House Location

▭ Border Crossing Area

▨ Phase I: New Route Alternatives (Nov. '13)

▩ Phase I: Refined Route Alternatives (Fall '13)

▭ State Boundary

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# Outreach Tools

Newsletters

Website Statistics



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## A word from Minnesota Power

Welcome to the first issue of the Great Northern Transmission Line Project (Project) Newsletter, Great Northern News. My name is Jim Atkinson and I'm Minnesota Power's Environmental Lead for the project.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep interested parties informed of the current status of the Project as it transitions from planning, to state and federal review, to design and permitting and, ultimately, to construction. The Project team will use this newsletter to provide answers to frequently asked questions, help announce upcoming meetings and key dates, and provide new information on the Project. I hope you find it to be a valuable resource.

I would like to thank everyone who has participated by attending one of our stakeholder workshops (August 2012), open house meetings (October and November 2012), submitted comments, or phoned in their questions or concerns. We review and consider all comments received. I would ask that you continue to provide input, especially if you have questions or concerns regarding the Project.

We anticipate hosting another round of public open house meetings in April 2013. I look forward to this next opportunity to hear from interested people in the project area. Meeting notifications for future public open houses will be provided by our Project team through the mail, on our Project website and hotline, and in advertisements in local newspapers.

**Jim Atkinson**  
Supervisor, Environmental Lead

## The Minnesota Certificate of Need (CN) Process

Minnesota statutes require that the applicant for a high voltage transmission line provide documentation about why the project is needed. The Certificate of Need (CN) application is submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for evaluation and, if appropriate, approval. Minnesota Power intends to submit the CN application in April 2013.

### View the Great Northern CN

Instructions for navigating the PUC Docket can be found at our website at [www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com](http://www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com). Go to the Resources page and click on "View the Great Northern PUC Docket."

The CN application includes a discussion of project need, an evaluation of potential alternatives that could meet the identified need, and a brief discussion of the potential environmental impacts associated with the preferred alternative.

Once the CN is submitted to the PUC, it is generally a 12-month process for review and approval. The PUC will hold public hearings to gather input about the information provided in the CN. Meanwhile, the Department of Commerce (DOC) will develop an environmental report and conduct public meetings to gather comments on environmental issues. The dates and locations of the PUC and DOC public hearings are unknown at this time, but the Project team will publicize them when details are finalized.

After the agency meetings, PUC and DOC will each develop a summary of their respective meetings and provide recommendations to the Commission. The Commission will review all of the information and recommendations at its regular public meeting and will grant or deny the Certificate.

## GREATNORTHERNnews

# GREATNORTHERNnews



The Great Northern Transmission Line will increase system reliability across the upper Midwest region.



## The Great Northern Transmission Line will...

- **Diversify** Minnesota Power's baseload generation and reduce emissions.
- **Reduce negative financial exposure** to pending and future emission reduction requirements.
- **Increase system reliability** for a broad region of the upper Midwest.
- **Support industrial growth**, both recent and planned, on the Iron Range.
- **Provide economic benefits** in the form of property tax revenue, construction and maintenance jobs, and increased business for hotels, restaurants, and other services along the final route.

## Contact Information

Email: [info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com](mailto:info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com)  
Information Hotline: 877.657.9934

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# GREATNORTHERNnews

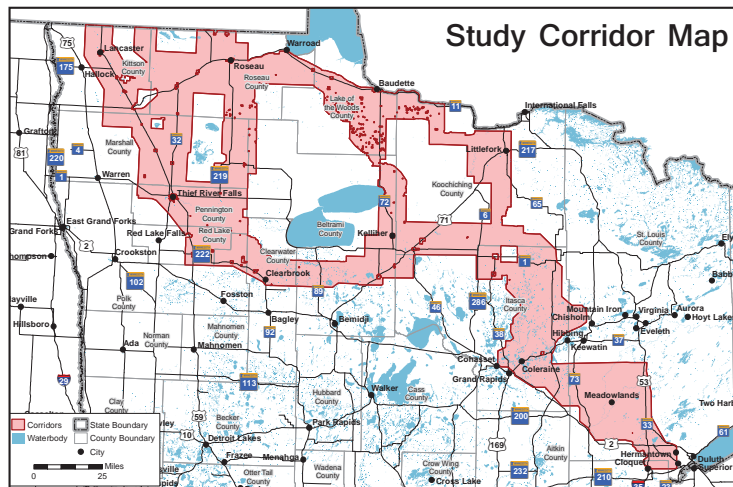


## Routing the Great Northern Transmission Line

Minnesota Power has spent nearly a year working on the routing and technical aspects of the Project. Our ongoing routing process involves the review of a wide range of alternatives, consistent with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Our review considers a number of valuable resources, including:

- Residences
- Agricultural land
- State & federal lands
- Recreational areas
- Water resources
- Known cultural resources
- Schools and churches
- Airports/airstrips
- Government & conservation agency feedback
- Community input
- Stakeholder suggestions
- Engineering constraints
- Sensitive habitats and protected species

Minnesota Power used the above criteria to develop the Great Northern Transmission Line Study Corridors illustrated in the map below.



## We Listened to Public and Agency Feedback

### How we use your input

This past fall, our team hosted a series of 11 open house meetings across northern Minnesota to present our study corridors and seek feedback. Minnesota Power is using the feedback we received along with research specific to the routing criteria to narrow the study corridors into potential route alternatives.

The potential routes will be presented at the next round of public open house meetings in April 2013, where we will be able to share the latest project information and gather input from you on the route alternatives identified.



Informational board display at a public meeting held in Meadowlands, Minn. on November 8, 2012.

### Public input: from design questions to economics

The Project team gathered important feedback at our October and November public meetings. Landowner concerns ranged from design and environmental questions to economic benefits and proximity to homes.

We have responded to all comments that we received via voicemail and email. We heard you tell us that you want the Project to:

- Follow existing linear features where feasible (e.g., public roads, railroads, existing utility easements etc.).
- Consider important agricultural practices.
- Respect landowners and their property.
- Evaluate routing on public and private lands.
- Consider ways to minimize land impacts during construction.

If you have a concern or a question about the Project, we want to hear from you! See our contact information on the back side of this newsletter.



Meeting participants discuss right-of-way (ROW) with an environmental specialist at a public meeting held in Lancaster, Minn. on October 30, 2012.



## WHAT'S INSIDE?

- A Word from Minnesota Power
- Certificate of Need
- Moving Forward with Phase 1 (500 kV)
- Project Map and Schedule
- April 2013 Open House Meeting Summary
- Frequently Asked Questions

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** Why does Minnesota Power need to build a new transmission line?

**A:** The line is needed to deliver hydropower to Minnesota and the Upper Midwest. Minnesota Power signed a Power Purchase Agreement with Manitoba Hydro as part of Minnesota Power's long-term strategy to add clean and affordable energy into the energy supply.

The Great Northern Transmission Line will bring this abundant and uniquely flexible energy to Minnesota Power customers and other utilities' customers in the area while enhancing regional reliability. Additionally, the Project would

accommodate continued industrial expansion on the Iron Range.

**Q:** How far will the transmission line be from homes?

**A:** Avoiding occupied residences and separation from structures are key routing criteria. Minnesota Power restricts the construction of new structures within the 200-foot wide right-of-way. Therefore, the minimum distance from a new structure would be 100 feet (the right-of-way would cover 100 feet on each side of the structure). Minnesota Power will design the route to maximize separation from existing homes and cabins.

**Q:** How many routes will be filed through the Minnesota regulatory process?

**A:** Minnesota Power will file a minimum of two routes with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission as required by state statute. Through the voluntary routing process, Minnesota Power will continue to gather input from the public, agencies, and tribes. Minnesota Power anticipates filing the Route Permit Application for Phase 1 (500 kV transmission line) in early 2014.

## A word from Minnesota Power

Welcome to another edition of Great Northern News. This issue contains helpful information on a key part of the project – the filing of the Certificate of Need (CN). It also contains a summary of the April open house meetings, the routing process for the Great Northern Transmission Line and our new phased project approach.

Within the next few weeks you should receive a notice letter discussing the CN application. We encourage you to read the notice carefully; you can also read a brief overview of the CN process in this newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the spring open house meetings held in April. You can find summary information from the open house meetings inside this newsletter.

Many of you asked if there will be more public meetings. I am happy to tell you the answer is yes! We hope you join us at our next round of open house meetings scheduled for the weeks of September 9 and September 16. Open house meeting times, dates, and locations will be mailed to you, listed in local newspapers, and on our Project website and toll-free information line in mid-August. I look forward to continuing conversations to gather input and answer your questions or concerns regarding the Project.

Using the feedback we received at the public meetings and through careful consideration of input provided by landowners, agencies, tribal representatives and stakeholders, along with environmental and engineering considerations, Minnesota Power is working to develop routes that will provide the best possible location to construct the new transmission line. Refined routes will be available for review at our September open house meetings and on our interactive website mapping tool.

We hope you find this newsletter informative. You are always welcome to send us newsletter topic suggestions using one of our various contact options.

**Jim Atkinson**  
Supervisor, Environmental Lead  
Minnesota Power

## Certificate of Need

The Certificate of Need is the first major step in the state regulatory process. The CN process determines if the project is necessary and determines project specifics like the timeline, configuration and structure size. Minnesota Power will submit a CN application in August 2013 and anticipates the CN process to be completed by late-summer 2014. The CN application includes a discussion of project need, an evaluation of potential alternatives that could meet the identified need, and a brief discussion of the potential environmental impacts associated with the preferred alternative.

## Moving Forward with Phase 1: 500 kV Transmission Line

The Great Northern Transmission Line will consist of two transmission lines:

- Phase 1: 500 kV transmission line from Canadian border to Minnesota's Iron Range
- Phase 2: 345 kV double circuit transmission line from the Iron Range to near Duluth, Minnesota.

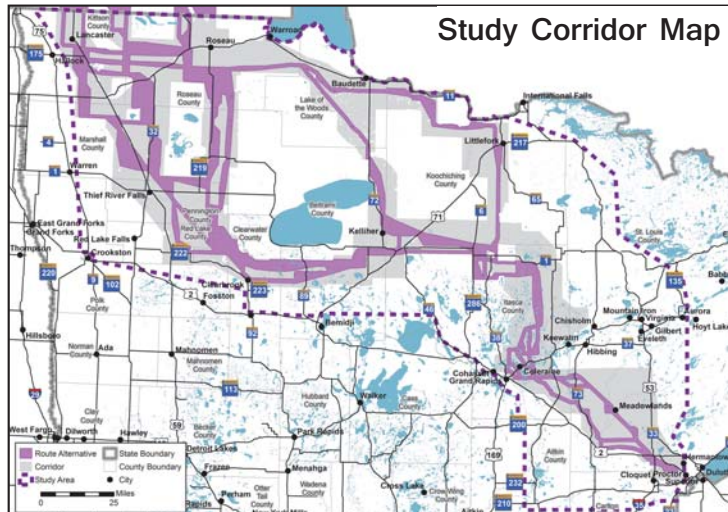
Minnesota Power is moving forward with the routing, siting, and permitting process for Phase 1 of the Project. We fully anticipate both phases of the Project to be constructed; however, the 500 kV line is our initial priority. Minnesota Power will focus on the Certificate of Need and Route Permit Applications to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the Presidential Permit Application to the United States Department of Energy for the 500 kV transmission line.

At this point, a timeframe has not been determined for when Minnesota Power will continue development of Phase 2. Minnesota Power will communicate a schedule and routing process for Phase 2 as information becomes available.

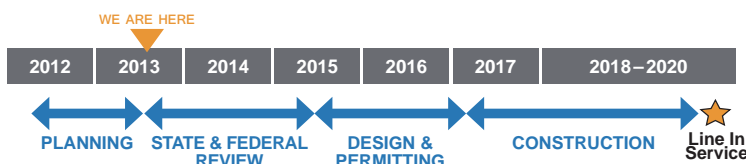
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Information Hotline: 877.657.9334  
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[www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com](http://www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com)

## Route Alternatives Map

Through the routing team's process, the project area has been narrowed. Our initial Study Area was approximately 20,000 square miles. Today, nearly 85% of the initial Study Area is not currently under consideration. The map illustrates how our routing process narrows our route options by showing our initial Study Area, our Study Corridors and the current Route Alternatives. Refined routes are currently being developed within the Route Alternatives and will be available for your review and input during the September open house meetings.



## Project Schedule:



## We Appreciate Your Participation and Input

In April, our team hosted a series of 14 open house meetings across northern Minnesota to present our route alternatives and seek input. Minnesota Power is using the information gathered along with data collected within the route alternatives to develop two or more potential route options. We will submit these route options as part of the state and federal permitting processes.



▲ The meeting held at the high school in Blackduck, MN had the highest attendance of the April public meetings.



▲ Team members and meeting attendees review project maps and route alternatives. (Bigfork, MN)

## September Open House Meetings

Join Us! Prior to the submittal of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit applications, Minnesota Power will present potential route options at the next round of open house meetings in September 2013, where we will be able to share the latest project information and gather additional feedback. Announcements will be made by mail, local newspapers and on the Project website and toll-free information line in mid-August.

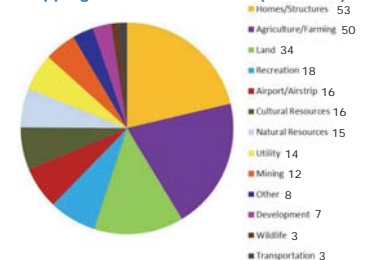
## Common Feedback Received

- Support for holding another round of meetings for the final route alternatives
- Questions and concerns about agriculture: diagonal crossings, aerial spraying and compatibility
- Questions and concerns about avoiding residences and structures
- Concerns about electronic and magnetic fields and stray voltage
- Questions about following existing transmission lines
- Questions about right-of-way payment and use
- Questions about Conservation Reserve Program lands coming out of production

## Public Meeting Snapshot:

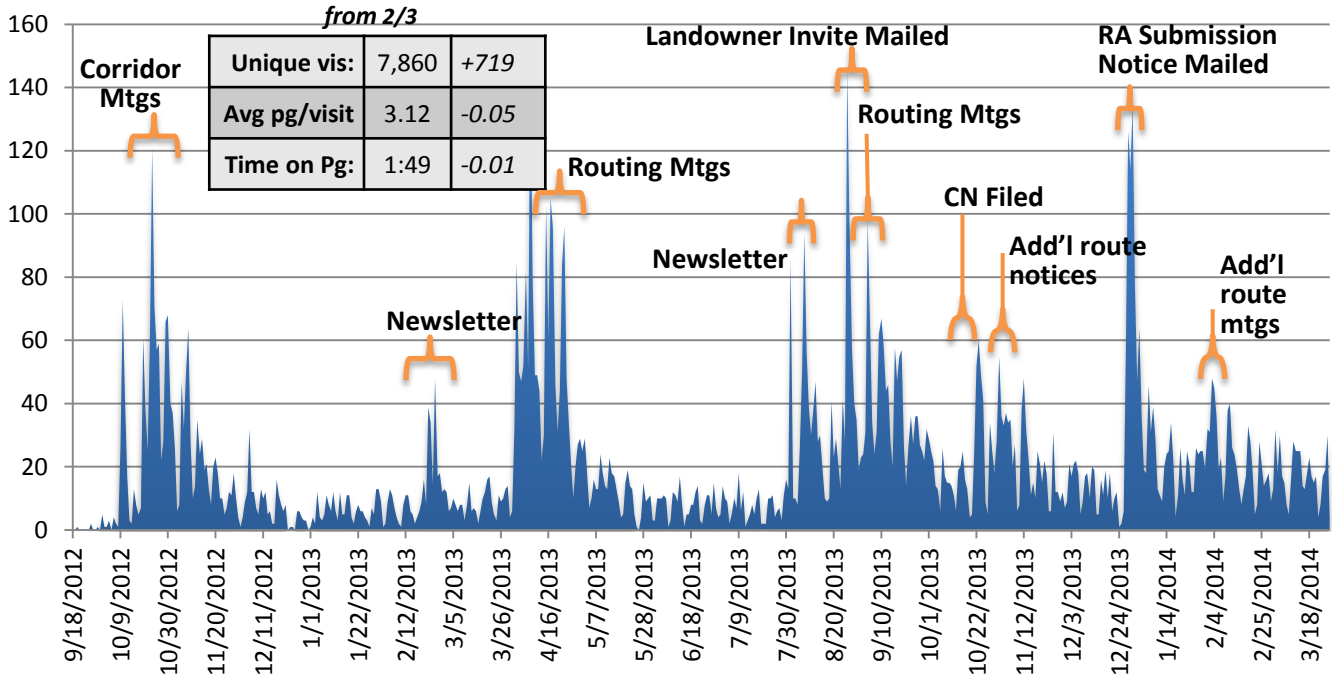
- 14 meetings between April 15 and 25
- 747 in-person attendees, 269 online attendees
- 249 mapping comments received
- 53 comment forms received
- 38 online meeting comments received

## Mapping Comment Results (249 total)



# OVERALL WEBSITE STATISTICS

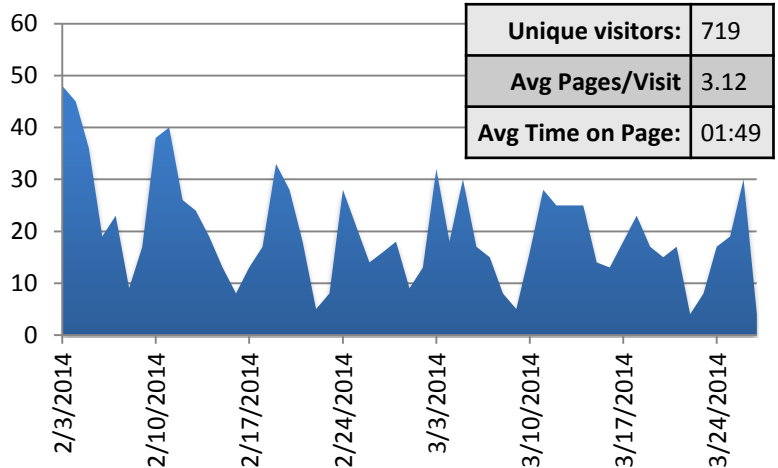
## Website Lifetime (Sept 18, 2012 – Mar 27, 2014): Unique Visitors



## Previous Month (Feb 3, 2013 – Mar 27, 2014): Unique Visitors

### Top 10 pages

Page	Unique Visitors	Avg. Time on Page
home	571	0:00:52
/map/	448	0:02:18
/resources/	161	0:02:32
/map/detail-maps/	158	0:02:40
/routing/	153	0:01:05
/map/comments-received-map/	144	0:02:55
/news/	93	0:00:56
/about/	84	0:00:56
/permitting/	63	0:01:41
/news/puc-holding-public-information-scoping-meetings-feb-11-13-and/	61	0:03:01

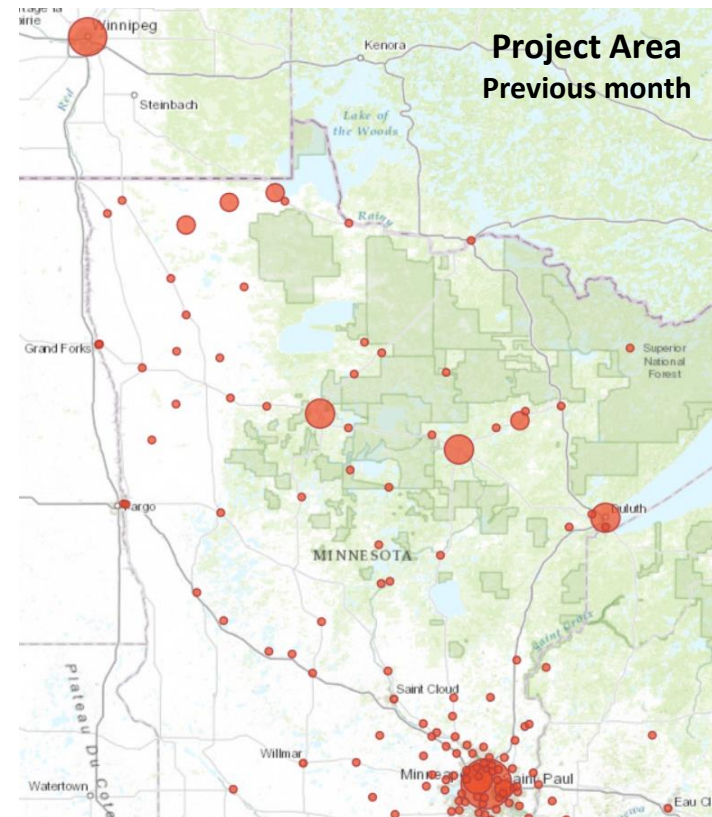
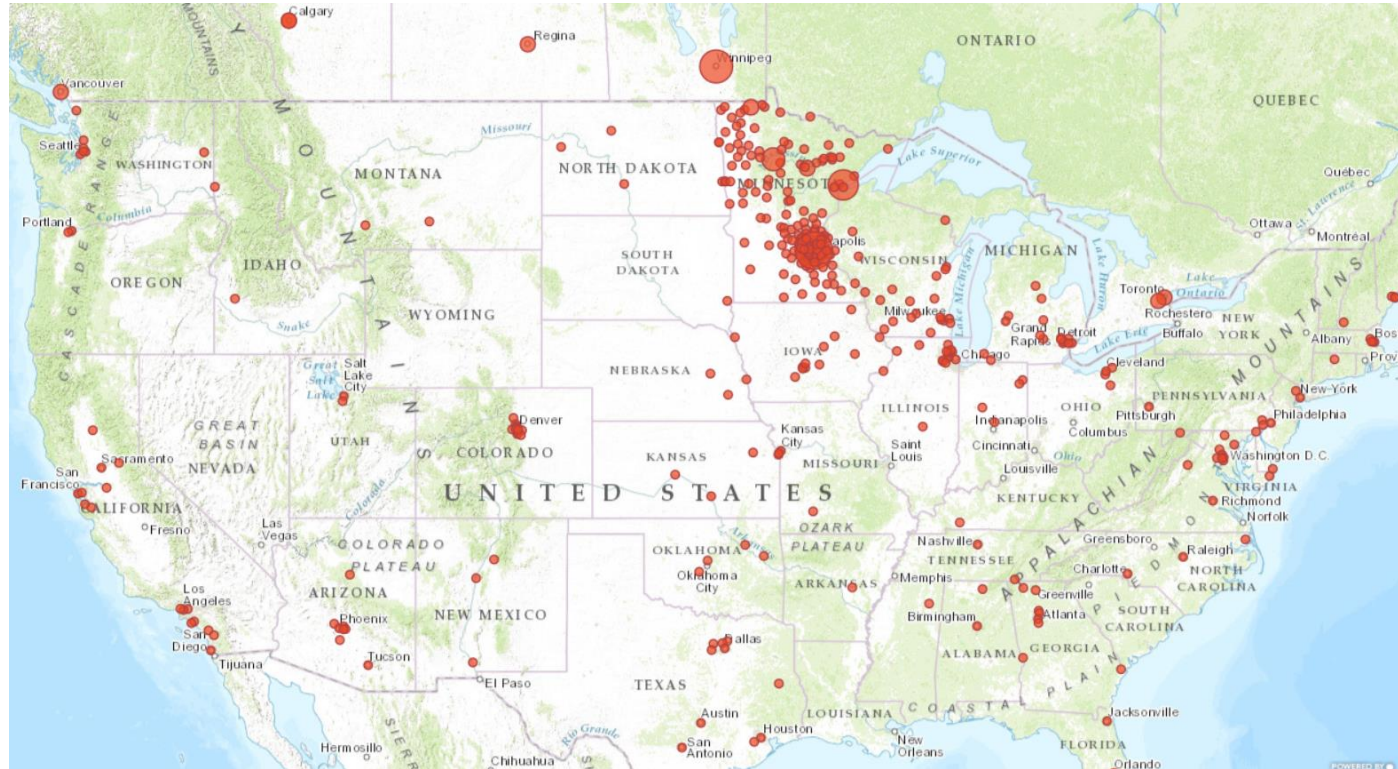


### Comments Received:

Media	Feb 3, 2014 – Mar 27, 2014	To date
Web	31	241
Hotline	40	143
Email	9	147
Mailing List	16	279

Note: All statistics were adjusted to exclude hits from Minnesota Power and HDR.



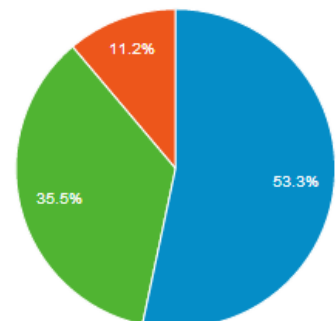


### Top 10 Locations (Previous month)

City	State	Visitors
Minneapolis	Minnesota	99
Winnipeg	Manitoba	46
Duluth	Minnesota	46
Grand Rapids	Minnesota	45
Bemidji	Minnesota	44
Roseau	Minnesota	34
Saint Paul	Minnesota	33
Warroad	Minnesota	26
Greenbush	Minnesota	25
Hibbing	Minnesota	22

### Traffic Source

- URL typed in directly
- Search engine
- Linked to from other source



Note: All statistics were adjusted to exclude hits from Minnesota Power and HDR.

Meeting Minutes

Interagency Meetings

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Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

## Meeting Summary

<b>Subject:</b>	Interagency Meeting with Department of Energy	<b>Project No:</b>	182035
<b>Client:</b>	Minnesota Power	<b>Meeting Location:</b>	Saint Paul Hotel St. Paul, MN
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	December 11, 2012	<b>Notes by:</b>	L. Nelson, HDR

### Attendees:

Christopher Lawrence and Brian Mills, Department of Energy  
Bill Baer and Kelly Urbanek, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)  
Virginia Laszewski, US Environmental Protection Agency via conference call (EPA)  
Margaret Rheude and Deanne Endrizzi, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)  
John Corrigan, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Christine Brown, Chippewa National Forest via conference call (CNF)  
Michael Kaluzniak and Scott Ek, MN Public Utilities Commission (PUC)  
Deborah Pile and Bill Storm, MN Department of Commerce (DOC)  
Dave Schuller and Jamie Schrenzell, MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR)  
Stacy Koch and Ann Driver, MN Department of Transportation (MnDOT)  
Eric Laverty, MISO  
James Mathewson and Shannon Johnson, Manitoba Hydro  
Jim Atkinson, David Moeller, Mike Donahue, Cindy Hammarlund, Deb Amberg Minnesota Power  
Michelle Bissonnette, Lydia Nelson, Angela Piner and Christina Rolfes, HDR Engineering

### Conference Call Attendees:

Lee Webb, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)  
Nathan Kestner and Rian Reed (DNR)  
Mike Klopp, Chris Fleege and Scott Hoberg, Minnesota Power

### Meeting Summary:

Minnesota Power presented an overview of the project:

- Project Team composed of Minnesota Power, Manitoba Hydro, HDR and Power Engineering.
- Project is needed to diversify MP's energy portfolio with a clean energy source, provide for increasing energy demand by MP's customers and increase reliability of regional transmission system with hydropower
- Project includes 500 kV from Manitoba to Blackberry Substation near Grand Rapids and double circuit 345 kV from Grand Rapids to Arrowhead Substation near Duluth.
- Power Purchase agreement requires line to be in service by June 2020.
- Regional transmission studies are under way by MP, MH and MISO.

- MISO looks at the regional generation and transmission system and is evaluating this project from that perspective.
- Question regarding the need for the project, why not just build more wind generation?
- This project would act like a battery to store energy when wind power is abundant and release power when wind slows down. This would help the regional system.
- These studies will be included in the applications required by the project.
- Business model
  - MP entered into agreement with MH to purchase 250 MW of hydropower.
  - The proposed line would accommodate 1,100 MW of power.
  - MH has other potential buyers for hydropower that would receive it via the proposed line.
- Project has held voluntary meetings with stakeholders, agencies and public.
  - July/August agency meetings
  - August stakeholder meetings with local officials, NGOs and others
  - October/November meetings for the public
    - 11 meetings, 583 individuals
    - also provided opportunity for viewing the 'open house' via the Project website.
- Information from the agency and stakeholder meetings was used to identify potential corridors.
- Corridors were presented at public meetings; information collected from meetings and additional information gathered will inform selection of potential routes.
- Reservations and known Tribal lands are not included in the corridors.
  - MP is working with Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to confirm locations of tribal lands as existing data bases are not always accurate.
  - Tribal council members were invited to stakeholder meetings
  - Public meetings were open to all who wanted to attend
- Project Corridor – next steps will be to develop routes and present them to the public for input.
  - MP and MH will continue to work to identify a single border crossing.
  - Next round of public open houses will be in the spring.

Manitoba Hydro presented information about their permitting process:

- The process is very similar to that completed in Minnesota.
- They will be holding public meetings at three stages (12 to 18 month process)
  - Developing corridors
  - Developing routes
  - Identifying the preferred route and border crossing.
- The project will require an Environmental Assessment, similar to the EIS required in MN.
- Once the EA is submitted in early 2014, it takes about 6 months for the provincial and federal governments to complete their reviews and come to a decision.
- Question about the energy source – is the generation in place?
  - The hydro facility is currently undergoing permitting in Manitoba. It is not yet under construction.
  - The two projects must proceed concurrently in order meet the June 2020 time frame.

DOE provided a summary of the federal permitting process:

- Presidential Permit Application should look at routes.
- Submittal of Application triggers beginning of NEPA process.

- Energy Policy Act Section 216(h) allows for early, informal coordination prior to submittal of the Application. This meeting falls under early coordination.
  - Encourages all federal agencies to work cooperatively for permitting.
  - DOE would lead if there are no other federal land management agencies involved, i.e. Forest Service (FS) or Bureau of Land Management.
  - Project corridors include minor amounts of FS lands.
- Routes can be 1/4 mile wide or wider.
  - DOE does not have siting authority.
  - State has siting authority – they can determine the route width for siting.
  - Example of joint lead for MATL project in Montana – state required narrow route so that is what was evaluated.
- Once DOE receives Application, they determine level of analysis (EA vs EIS).
  - Under 216(h), DOE then identifies lead federal agency.
- DOE will use a 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractor if an EIS is needed, funded by the applicant, to complete NEPA review.
  - Comment about contractor qualifications – cannot have perceived or actual conflict of interest, must have NEPA experience on linear projects, DOE experience preferred, experience in MN preferred
  - DOE is typically lead if there are no other federal land management agencies.
- Comment – USACE would like to see MOU developed so that the EIS can serve all federal agencies, i.e. covers Section 404(b)(1) requirements.
  - USACE would like to use a merged process for NEPA and Section 404.
- Section 106 – DOE would need to lead this process or designate another federal agency as lead.
  - USACE indicated that they would be available to assist (but not lead?) as they have staff archaeologist that knows 106 and knows the Tribes in the area.
  - MOU would be desirable to identify who is doing what for the 106 process.
- Section 7 – DOE would coordinate with USFWS and National Marine Fisheries, as appropriate.
- Project Schedule developed by MP is a good idea, but will be dependent on the quality of the Application and materials submitted.
  - DOE does have a 13 month timeframe from when the Draft EIS is published, but no other schedule requirements.
  - State agencies do have specific schedule requirements – 12 to 18 month process is typical, beginning with submittal of the Certificate of Need or Route Permit Application.
- General comment – MP has done a good job by initiating early coordination with local, state and federal agencies.

MP provided a summary of the state process:

- State has two step process: Certificate of Need (CoN) and Route Permit
  - These can be run concurrently, as long as the CoN is approved prior to the Route
- CoN proves the “Need” for the project.
  - Includes high level environmental review, focusing on the project end points and a general discussion of the area between the end points.
  - Includes consideration of all alternatives, typically may include alternative energy sources.

- State has already approved the Power Purchase Agreement, i.e. the need for MP to purchase power from Manitoba Hydro. Expect process to include a contested case hearing which would be run by an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ).
- Process can take up to 12 months.
- Comment from USACE: They would like to review the CoN to see if the “needs statement” will be sufficient for Section 404. They may need a different purpose and need statement, but would be good to coordinate if possible.
- Route Permit process identifies the location for the route.
  - Includes environmental review of proposed routes.
  - Expect process to include a contested case hearing which would be run by an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ).
  - Process can take up to 12 months.
  - Comment from USACE: They would like a thorough description of how we got from study area to corridors, then from corridors to routes. This will be important for Section 404(b)(1) statement.
    - HDR will develop memo to describe the routing process.
    - There is a handout in folder titled Route Development and Stakeholder Outreach Process that highlights the process followed.

#### General Discussion:

- DNR commented about the other permits that they may need to approve for the project, including: License to cross public lands, license to cross public waters, water appropriation, T&E take permit, osprey nest removal permit. These will require coordination with local DNR staff.
- DOE would need to issue the Presidential Permit, their decision is to issue the permit or not.
  - The permit is granted if it is in the public interest, i.e. if the project provides improvement to electric reliability then it is in the public interest
  - The decision is not to identify the exact location where the line will be constructed.
  - The Application is reviewed in concert with Department of Defense and Department of State.
- If the project crosses any DOD facilities, early coordination will be necessary. This includes potential fly zones.
  - There are no DOD facilities within the corridors, but they do use the air space for training.
- International Boundary Commission is an independent arm of the State Department. They would likely review the project and may require a permit for construction at the border.
  - Similar agency in Canada that MH is working with.
- FAA is another agency that will require coordination.
- MP has initiated coordination with Customs and Border Patrol. Understanding is that DOE will be responsible for coordination at DC level and then the review documents will be sent down to the local level. DOE confirmed.
- Comment that working with Tribes is required under Section 106 process. It must be led by the lead federal agency (DOE). So although Tribes were invited to MP’s meetings, it would not be considered part of Section 106.
  - DOE recognizes the need to execute Section 106.
  - The USACE indicated that they could assist DOE by being the local contact. USACE has local cultural resource staff who has worked with the Tribes in this part of Minnesota.

- Project area includes 1854 ceded territory – may need to expand the list of Tribes included in the consultation.
- DOC – noted that they would like to review the draft Route Permit Application at least 30 days prior to submittal. DOE would like to do the same with the draft Presidential Permit Application.
  - Helps ensure that the applications are complete.

HDR led the discussion about the state and federal process coordination:

- Goal of afternoon is to discuss key milestones, schedule/concurrence points and roles/responsibilities
- Identification of border crossing is milestone for MP and MH. Would like to have this so routing can proceed. What are state and federal regulations regarding process?
  - DOE can have one proposed end point, but scoping may bring other options to the table. Essentially same for the state process.
  - Question about how current corridors were identified – why not go east or west?
    - MP and MH are coordinating to identify locations that are feasible for each side.
- Question about the need for the project. CoN will be for 1,100 MW transfer capability that will satisfy MP load requirements and provide capacity for MH to export to other US utilities.
  - Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) is doing studies to identify the impact to the regional system. They have requests for an additional 1,100 MW of generation. To agree to these requests, they need to identify appropriate transmission – either this project or something similar.
  - Part of the project purpose is to provide a balance to wind that is currently being generated. When wind is down, then hydropower can be turned up and versa visa. So, providing the additional 1,100 MW strictly with wind would not solve this issue.
  - The Presidential Permit application will include a ‘need’ statement. DOE provided specific citations: Executive Orders 1045 and 12038 as well as NEPA DOE and CEQ regulations for reference. State CoN statutes are in Minnesota Statutes Section 216B.243.
  - FERC does not have direct jurisdiction over reliability determinations; those are made by the state.
- EPA requested that they receive materials as paper copy.
- Question about eminent domain:
  - State grants authority for eminent domain after CoN is approved. However, MP generally does not use it until after the route is approved.
    - Do not anticipate having to use eminent domain for survey work.
- Coordination of Public Involvement
  - DOE has done coordination with state and independent PI process. Their general council will have to review and agree on process.
  - Same for DOC – thought they have schedule requirements.
  - MOU could be used to coordinate – depends on level of coordination as to whether MOU is necessary or not.
  - MP prefers coordinated process to minimize confusion for public and to simplify the process.
  - DOE would probably attend the CoN public meetings.
- Concurrence points – has specific meaning for USACE related to setting milestone decisions for Section 404. Developing MOU with DOE would be helpful to merge Section 404 with NEPA.

- EIS Analysis and Coordination
  - DOE – will determine whether EIS or EA is needed based on Presidential Permit application. Decision to do joint EIS will be made at higher level.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractor could be identified prior to Notice of Intent.
  - CNF – based on recent experience, prefers to not do a joint document. Federal agencies may require different analysis.
  - EPA – thought joint EIS process went well.
- EPA commented about need to get Section 106 started early. Advisory Council concurs – there may be strong Tribal interest in the project.
  - DOE has staff who work with Tribes, they would start with informal consultation. NY process for Tribal consultation is working well – may use as a model.
- Width of Route
  - DOE does not have siting authority – so will rely on state to pick the width/location of the route.
  - EPA suggested considering tiered EIS.
  - DOC prefers to narrow the route as much as possible so that landowners know whether they are going to be impacted or not.
    - MP commented that this leaves less flexibility for design and field changes if things are discovered/identified that can't be avoided.
- If route crosses state lands it may trigger Section 4/6 review by USFWS or NPS if there were federal funds involved in the purchase/management of the property. This extends the approval timeframe for crossing state lands.
- MOU(s)
  - Determination of whether MOUs will be done depends on interest of agencies.
  - DOE has schedule requirement that will need to be met: Decision must be made not more than 1 yr + 30 days after DEIS is published.
- **Action Item:** DOE requested that MP provide list of contacts for agencies and Tribes that have been involved in the project to date.
- Section 106 – per Advisory Council
  - Coordinate NEPA and Section 106 – new guidance is coming out, it is currently under review at CEQ
  - USACE could be local liaison for Section 106
- EPA – would USACE do an individual permit?
  - Depends on the level of impact.
- DOE 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Contractor
  - MP can select a contractor – provide qualifications to DOE
    - Experience with DOE projects
    - Experience in MN
    - Experience w linear projects
    - Experience with presidential permit
    - Must not have a real or perceived conflict of interest – can not have done any work for the utility or its subsidiaries
    - Liaison or presence in DC would be a plus
  - General Counsel makes decision
  - DOE does not have to review the RFP
  - DOE prefers to be provided with a first choice, but if rejected will need to see other

- DOC is doing RFP for 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractors
  - Assume this project would use 3<sup>rd</sup> party?
  - Discussed possibility of DOE and DOC using same contractor, who would hire, etc.
    - **Action Item:** Need to pursue 3<sup>rd</sup> party coordination between DOE and DOC
- Field surveys
  - DOE will let DOC and state/federal agencies determine the level of surveys needed for the project.
  - DNR prefers to have surveys done before a route is chosen, but understands that this may not be feasible.
    - **Action Item:** MP to work with DNR to obtain recently collected biological data
    - Grand Rapids forest assessment unit is a good resource for land cover information
  - USACE – NWI is not very accurate in northern MN
    - Someone familiar with the area needs to do the wetland review
  - MnDOT – until the routes are narrowed, they will not have a lot of input
    - They can provide 20-year plans, ROW, scenic byways and other pertinent info.
  - NRCS has GIS layer of wetland easements
    - These easements are permanent – can't cross them.
    - **Action Item:** MP will work with NRCS to get this data.
- **Action Item:** MP to set up monthly conference calls for agencies. Likely first Wednesday of the month, at 2:00 pm CST.

#### **Action Items:**

- DOE requested that MP provide list of contacts for agencies and Tribes that have
- Need to pursue 3<sup>rd</sup> party coordination between DOE and DOC
- MP to work with DNR to obtain recently collected biological data
- MP will work with NRCS to get biological data.
- MP to set up monthly conference calls for agencies. Likely first Wednesday of the month, at 2:00 pm CST.



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## Meeting Notes

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**Wednesday, February 6, 2013**

2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

### Location:

Conference Call 866.994.6437 code 432.7111

Go To Meeting: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/join/975765945>

**Meeting Host:** Minnesota Power

Jim Atkinson (218) 343-9119

David Moeller (218) 723-3963

Michelle Bissonnette (HDR)

Lydia Nelson (HDR) (763) 278-5909

### 1. Roll Call

- Federal
  - DOE – Christopher Lawrence
  - COE – Bill Baer
  - USFS-CNF – Christine Brown
  - USFWS – Neil Powers (Tamarack National Wildlife Refuge)
  - EPA – Virginia Laszewski
  - MISO – Eric Lavery
  - ACHP – Lee Webb
- State
  - PUC – Scott Ek
  - DOC – Deb Pile, Bill Storm
  - PCA – Jim Brist
  - DNR – Joe Rokala, Lisa Joyal, Nathan Kestner, Rian Reed
  - MnDOT – Stacy Kotch
- Minnesota Power – David Moeller, Jim Atkinson
- HDR – Lydia Nelson, Christina Rolfes, Michelle Bissonnette, Dana Petersen

### 2. Project Status

- Minnesota Power Press Release
  - This press release provides additional info for project need, as it makes a more clear commitment to cleaner energy
  - It indicates that Minnesota Power decided to close some coal units as part of integrated resource plan and will be transitioning to a 33% goal for coal over long term (was 50%)
  - Minnesota Power will be diversifying to a greater extent than previously made public
  - Because of this, acquisition from Manitoba Hydro is critical
  - The integrated resource plan is seeking official approval on March 1<sup>st</sup>
- SharePoint – agency access
  - Most attendees received an email with steps on how to access the SharePoint site
  - If documents are sent out or made public, it should be posted on the sharepoint site
  - Agencies can also access Public Involvement information through the project website [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com)
- Routing process – route refinement
  - The project hosted public corridor meetings in October-November

- Agencies were also shown project corridors in December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting in St. Paul, MN
- In routing development, no corridors were eliminated
- The next step in the routing process was to create a route network by looking at quarter section lines and was analyzing best opportunities using a list of routing criteria
- EPA asks if the team has been consulting with the tribes.
  - ◆ HDR responds to say that the project has not reached that level of discussion and is expected to be under Department of Energy involvement
  - ◆ Tribes have and will continue to receive invitations and newsletters
  - ◆ Received feedback from public on wild rice areas at public meeting
  - ◆ MP mentions that the tribes have been invited to the workshops and meetings as part of stakeholder outreach
- Next step in the routing process is to review where existing transmission lines are
- Level 3 constraint analysis involves analyzing structures and homes, which determined where long feasible segments were
  - ◆ EPA asks if routing would avoid wetlands as well as bodies of water.
  - ◆ HDR responds that all wetlands were analyzed using land cover data with various types of wetlands, including emerging wetlands
  - ◆ DOC inquires about the lowest consideration category was 0-100' from a home, which would eliminate a segment?
    - a. MP indicates that a 200' ROW is standard for this size of transmission line
    - b. In response to an inquiry about whether this criteria eliminates many roads, Jim explains that it does take out many, but there are state highways that don't have many residential structures
- HDR mentions that the team is trying to find the best possibilities, in the future a segment could be brought into consideration if other options are more limited
- USFWS Tamarack asked if the team had taken into consideration public lands or state lands when establishing criteria
  - ◆ HDR explained that the Wildlife Refuge has been removed from corridors and public lands are given consideration when analyzing segments
  - ◆ The team analyzed miles and acres of public land, (federal state or county) crossed by the segment
- Wetland Management Areas were looked at as well
  - ◆ There are some areas that follow roads that go along WMAs that are less impactful than going through it
  - ◆ Also looking at Nature Conservancy easements and RIM land
  - ◆ Don't have data on CRP lands, would need landowner approval to release information to do so
  - ◆ The USFWS administered easements are under federal land
- A call attendee asked how private open lands end up faring in the process?
  - ◆ While looking at different segments and the small impacts to shrub and agricultural land, there is a basically low impact overall
  - ◆ There was conversation at the public meetings about conversion of agricultural land into ROW

- ◆ May be able to mitigate impacts by being on half section line
  - The routes will be available at the public open house meetings in April 2013
- Certificate of Need (PUC)
  - Last week the PUC approved the exemption request and notice plan
  - Proceeding on developing need for project
- Letter of intent (DOE)
  - Working with the Department of Energy to if there is a way to continue informal consultation without filing the Presidential Permit right away
  - There are not routes determined yet so the DOE's preference to allow informal consultation with by filing a Letter of Intent to introduce the project and its parameters, which would allow informal consultation to continue on a structured basis
  - Will enter into memos of understanding to facilitate the Presidential Permit process and NEPA review
  - The DOE and Minnesota Power want to have a robust application when they file, so DOE suggested this level of consultation
  - Virginia Laszewski asked if DOE scoping will still happen until a year from now after it is filed
    - ◆ If scoping is done on corridors, the project would have to contact hundreds of landowners
    - ◆ There is still the possibility of a new route being identified in the scoping process and Minnesota Power and the DOE is prepared for that
- Schedule and protocols for cultural, wetlands and biological resource studies
  - HDR is working on that process and will draft when to do do evaluations
  - Will get out to agencies within the next couple of months with recommendations

### **3. Information Needs**

- Biological survey data for 'missing counties'
  - Hoping to get the data from the DNR
- Wetland mitigation opportunities
  - The project team encourages suggestions and ideas
  - Keep the team updated so that they can take advantage of opportunities

### **4. Schedule**

- Filing dates
  - April with Notice of Intent to DOE with Certificate of Need
  - Route Permit will be filed in fall of 2013
- Public meetings
  - Will be last two weeks of April

### **5. Questions**

- Joe Rokala requests a call from Jim Atkinson
- Let HDR know if there is trouble accessing the Share Point site

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**GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE  
MONTHLY AGENCY MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, March 6, 2013**

**2:00 pm – 2:45 pm**

**Location:**

**Conference Call: 866.994.6437 Code: 432-7111**

**Go To Meeting: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/join/975765945>**

**Meeting Host: Minnesota Power**

**Jim Atkinson 218.343.9119**

**David Moeller 218.723.3963**

**Michelle Bissonnette (HDR)**

**Lydia Nelson (HDR) 081-029**

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The Conference Call commenced at 2:00 pm.

**1. Roll Call**

**a. Federal**

- COE – Bill Baer
- USFS-CNF – Christine Brown
- USFWS – Neil Powers

**b. State**

- DNR – Lisa Joyal, Jamie Schrenzel
- DOC – Deborah Pile, Bill Storm

**c. MISO – No Representation**

**d. Minnesota Power – Jim Atkinson, David Moeller, Terri Bagwell**

**e. HDR – Lydia Nelson, Christina Rolfes, Michelle Bissonnette**

**2. Project Status**

**a. SharePoint**

Christina R. inquired as to whether or not anyone had any difficulties accessing the HDR SharePoint site, and if so, the agencies could contact Lydia N. or herself for assistance. None of the attendees expressed concerns at this time.

b. Routing

Christina R. began the discussion by indicating that good progress was being made with regard to routing and that the draft alternatives are complete.

c. Public Meetings

It was announced that the next round of voluntary public meetings will take place April 15-26, 2013.

d. Routes to Agencies for Review

The question was raised as to the best method to get the routing information to the agencies. Lisa J. indicated that she would prefer shape files. Jim A. indicated that there is also the option of .pdf documents placed on the HDR SharePoint. The group responded positively to the .pdf idea. It was also suggested that after the individual agencies reviewed the routes, perhaps an in-person meeting can take place to review the routes on an individual-basis per agency. Christina R. indicated that an email can be sent to the agency members when the items are available on the HDR SharePoint.

Following a question from a call-in member, the group was told that the corridors will be presented to the public at 1 ¼ miles wide, which is a starting point width, and is in accordance with the statutes.

Christina R. indicated that agency feedback will likely not be incorporated prior to the public meetings in April, as mailings will go out in about one month. The goal is to have the routes as close to being final as possible by April 1st. The public meetings are scheduled for April 15-26, 2013.

Based on a comment from a call-in member, the group discussed the need to be particular on the terminology that is used as the routes are narrowed down.

3. State/Federal and Federal/Federal Coordination

a. MOUs

The need for coordination between the state and federal agencies was discussed, with the Memorandum of Understanding(s) highlighted relative to the federal process.

Jim A. inquired how many consultants the DOC Request for Purchase (RFP) was sent out to. Deborah P. indicated that the RFP was published in the State Register and on the Department of Administration website.

b. Points of Concurrence (COE)

Lydia N. began the discussion on the Points of Concurrence (COE). Bill B. indicated that the alternatives take into consideration the least amount of damage. Lydia N. indicated that with regard to the Certificate of Need (CN), consideration is being given to have a section for the 404(b)(1) of the CWA. Lydia N. further indicated that she will route a draft to Bill B. for review.

c. Coordinating Public Involvement

Lydia N. indicated that the process between DOE and MP is in place to keep matters smooth for the public, and asked if anyone on the call had any comments regarding this item. Meeting with the DOE will occur within 45 days of the application; approximately late June. David M. further confirmed that it would be at least one month.

d. NEPA/MEPA Document Coordination

e. Section 106 Consultation

Section 106 was going to be discussed, however, without representation present, Lydia N. decided to table this agenda item for a future conference call.

4. Schedule

a. Certificate of Need

David M. indicated that there are still some business matters and MISO study issues that need to get resolved before the Certificate of Need (CN) Application is submitted.

b. Letter of Intent

The Letter of Intent to the DOE was also discussed.

c. Public Meetings

The group was reminded that the public meetings will take place April 15-26, 2013.

d. Protocols for Cultural, Wetlands, and Biological Resource Studies

Lydia N. stated that these protocols are being reviewed internally and will then be routed to the agencies. It is anticipated that a draft protocols should be ready for agency review/discussion at the end of this month.

5. Information Needs

a. Anything New we need to know about?

Lydia N. asked the group to let her know if there is anything that needs to be discussed at future conference calls.



b. Biological Survey Data for 'Missing Counties'

Jamie S. was wondering what website was currently being used for DNR – survey data on the data deli was recently updated. After some discussion, Jim A. recommended that Christina R. talk with Gerry Sjerven (Environment Services, MP) for updated websites. Christina R. indicated that she will copy Rian Reed on these efforts.

DNR Rare Features does not have 2012 data incorporated. Lisa J. indicated that she could provide MBS data if we provide shapefiles. It is thought that the publicly available update would be available this July.

HDR has set up a meeting with DNR Minerals for March 21. Ryan will be a part of that meeting. HDR should copy Nathan and Ryan on meeting requests.

c. New USFWS Easements

Lydia N. indicated that Fish and Wildlife provided correspondence indicating that they are developing additional information regarding easements. Neil P. asked if HDR had received any easement data beyond the Agassiz boundaries. Christina R. indicated that nothing additional has been received. Neil P. further stated that they have been working internally to identify easements that would include Tamarack, Glacial Lake and other USFWS easements in Northern Minnesota and will make that information available to HDR, with a target timeframe of possibly later this week or next.

d. Wetland Mitigation Opportunities

6. Questions

Jamie S. wanted to bring to the attention of the group that she had been made aware of some confusion on the review process and if she can be of assistance, she is available. Jim A. questioned where it is believed that the confusion is coming from. Jamie S. stated “Business First Stop”. David M. responded by indicating that Minnesota Power will be meeting with the Business First Stop next week.

With this being the second meeting of this group, Lydia N. requested that the members let her know if the agenda items thus far have appropriately covered the intent of these meetings, as well as if anyone has any other item(s) they would like placed on future agendas.

The Conference Call concluded at 2:45 pm.

## Meeting Minutes

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**Wednesday, April 3, 2013 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.**

**Location:**

Conference Call 866.994.6437 code 432.7111

Go To Meeting: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/join/455859880>

**Meeting Host:**

Minnesota Power

Jim Atkinson (218) 343-9119

David Moeller (218) 723-3963

Michelle Bissonnette (HDR)

Lydia Nelson (HDR) 081-029

The conference call commenced at 2:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

a. Federal –

- i. DOE – Brian Mills, Dave Smith
- ii. COE – William Baer
- iii. USFWS – Margaret Rheude
- iv. ACHP – Lee Webb

b. State –

- i. DOC – Deborah Pile, Bill Storm
- ii. PCA – Jim Brist
- iii. DNR – Nathan Kestner, Rian Reed, Joe Rokala, Jamie Schrenzel

c. MISO – No Representation

d. Minnesota Power – Jim Atkinson, Terri Bagwell, David Moeller

e. Manitoba Hydro – Patrick McGarry

f. HDR – Michelle Bissonnette, Lydia Nelson, Sean Tuohey

2. Project Status/Schedule

a. Routing

Lydia N. referenced the email she sent to the group providing the various routing documents that are currently available on the HDR SharePoint. She requested feedback on the shape files.

It was explained that the routing process has gone from study areas, to corridors, and then to routes. Sean T. highlighted and explained two of the routes. Lydia N. requested that the group communicate with her to provide feedback on these routes and any concerns the team should be aware of.

Lee W. asked if there was any response from SHIPO. Lydia N. responded by indicating that she believes that they are waiting for a letter from the DOE before they begin their involvement.

Rian R. questioned the possibility of the GNTL routing team to meet with DNR separately to review the routes. He also suggested that the other divisions of DNR be included in this meeting. Jim A. concurred with such a meeting and deferred to Lydia N. as to the timing and location of said meeting. Deborah P. would like to know when this meeting/conference call takes place. Jaimie S. also indicated that her department is wanting to better understand the routes. Deborah P. requested that they be kept informed on the various issues relative to routing. Lydia N. is anticipating that they would like to have the agency comments by early-to-mid-May.

b. Public Meetings

Lydia N. referenced the Open House letters that were sent out last week and invited the various agencies to attend any of the Open Houses. She believes that a majority of the time spent at these public meetings would be discussing routes with the public.

Lydia N. also mentioned the letters that were sent to the Tribal leaders regarding the Open Houses.

Jim A. made the group aware that these public meetings are posted to the GNTL website and, therefore, available to the public online.

c. Certificate of Need (PUC)

David M. updated the group on the Certificate of Need (CN), indicating that the filing of this document is targeted for early June (2013). He also indicated that a Facilities Construction Agreement needs to be worked through with regard to MISO.

d. Letter of Intent (DOE)

David M. provided an update on the Letter of Intent (LOI), indicating that filing of this document is targeted for early May (2013).

Deborah P. reminded MP that they are there when they are needed.

3. State/Federal and Federal/Federal Coordination

a. State/Federal EIS

This Agenda Item was tabled for a future conference call.

b. Section 106 Consultation

Lydia N. provided an update to the group with regard to the Section 106 Consultation, asking if DOE had any input that they wanted the GNTL Team to be aware of.

Bill B. indicated that he discussed with the Section Chief that at this point the USACE would not be able to take the lead role. He further indicated that potential budget issues (related to

sequestration) and the extent of existing project work are stretching their cultural resource staff.

Lydia N. indicated that once the LOI is executed, then things can move forward. She further indicated the COE would be beneficial in working with the Tribes at whatever level they can afford, given their local knowledge and relationships.

Jim A. suggested that Minnesota Power may be able to assist with funding or staff to develop documents and set up meetings necessary for Section 106. David M. indicated they are working on a draft MOU (for the USACE and DOE) that may assist with identifying responsibilities.

Brian M. indicated there would be a lot of support from the DOE.

4. Anything new we need to know about?

Margaret R. provided an update to the group with regard to USFWS's involvement. She will be USFWS lead and will coordinate comments/responses for the project.

5. Questions

Lydia requested comments, feedback, questions from the group on the meeting agenda and format. She also indicated that at the next meeting, there would be a summary of the Open Houses that will be held later this month.

The conference call concluded at 2:45 p.m.

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## Meeting Minutes

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**Wednesday, May 1, 2013    2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

### Location:

Conference Call 866.994.6437 code 432.7111

Go To Meeting: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/join/455859880>

### Meeting Host:

Minnesota Power

David Moeller (218) 723-3963

Lydia Nelson (HDR) 081-029

### Agenda

1. Roll Call
  - a. Federal
    - Julie Smith and Ed LeDuc – DOE
    - Bill Baer – USACE
    - Neil Powers – USFWS
    - Virginia Laszewski – US EPA
    - Christine Brown – Chippewa NF
  - b. State
    - Stacy Kotch – MnDOT
    - Nathan Kestner – DNR NW Region
  - c. MISO
    - Paul Muncy – MISO
  - d. Project Team
    - Patrick McGarry – Manitoba Hydro
    - David Moeller – Minnesota Power
    - Lydia Nelson, Dana Peterson, Christine Rolfes – HDR
2. Project Status/Schedule
  - a. Public Meetings Summary
    - Attendees liked the format of the meetings, opportunity for early input, most think bringing in hydropower is good, and the benefit of the tax base; overall, the meetings were generally positive.
    - A number of people wanted Minnesota Power as their electric service provider
    - Landowners voiced concerns of impact to homes, health and safety issues, agriculture impacts related to aerial spraying and gps, concerns about impacts to wildlife – though may provide hunting opportunities.
    - Private landowners want us to go on public land, and vice versa - the project team emphasized that both types of land will be considered and that continued consultation will occur with the public and agencies.

### 3. Route review

- a. EPA stated that the maps provided are difficult to use – she received paper (11x17) and pdf copies of maps used at public meetings; information from the website is difficult to use and access.
  - HDR indicated that we could provide a more detailed map book but that it would be several hundred pages.

**Action Item:** HDR to send EPA more a better project map.

- b. EPA points out that it appears the route alternatives use existing power line rights of way.
  - HDR confirmed that it happens more in eastern end of the project area.
- c. EPA asks why there is not a corridor east of International Falls for the border crossing from Canada and if that would mean less impacts to Minnesota.
  - HDR indicated that Manitoba may not have authority in that province and it would be difficult to get a permit.
  - MH confirms that it would not be likely and it is not an option to go through Ontario.
  - MP says that it wouldn't necessarily be less impacts to Minnesota because of proximity to the Boundary Waters, Voyageurs NP and other environmentally sensitive areas.
- d. Project Team held meetings with USACE and DNR discussing routing
  - EPA requested copies of meeting minutes.
  - DNR offers that they are willing to provide EPA formal and informal comments to date on the project; DNR did not send a representative on an official capacity to the open house meetings.
  - DOE requests that if the MN DNR is sharing information with the EPA, that it would also be sent to DOE.

**Action Item:** HDR to provide meeting minutes to EPA and DOE.

- e. EPA asks if the project team can clarify whether the project is in an official NEPA Scoping process?
  - HDR explains that the project is not in a formal process, but rather a pre application/information gathering stage. HDR encourages everyone to be reviewing routes and send comments to the project team.
  - DOE indicates that this is prescoping, but is an attempt to be involved early in the process as the project is developed.
  - HDR explains that right now the project team is compiling all comments and entering them into the database and will use all comments received in the next phase of the routing process in order to put the best route forward in the process.
  - HDR says that it might be a lot of work for agencies but the sooner the team knows about constraints and flaws, the easier it will be to get a viable route
- f. DOE asks if there will be documentation on how the comments during prescoping are used to inform the further refinement of the route? Is there any plan to produce a summary of the comments that feed into potential criteria to refine routes? Having that summary would be a source of feedback for the agencies to look at to know about what the public is saying.
  - HDR replied that the project team will create a document summarizing the meetings to highlight the details of the meetings and general type and number of comments received



- MP restates that it is not in an official process but there may be a way to include a summary of the comment process in a future application.
- g. DOE says there may be limits with agencies on what feedback can be given due to it being an informal and pre application stage and it may not be proper to solicit feedback from federal agencies because it is not a “formalized” process.
  - MP understands the point; the Project Team will keep that in consideration moving forward.
- h. EPA asks DOE if the meeting minutes generated from these calls and meetings will be part of the EIS. EPA indicates that the one set of meeting minutes she had an opportunity to review did not accurately reflect her comments.
  - HDR indicates that changes can be made to meeting minutes if agencies feel their comments aren’t accurately portrayed.
  - DOE responds that it is not in formal scoping stage, so they will not need to be included.
  - EPA questions why the agencies are-asked to participate in these meetings if information and minutes may not be accurately reflective of comments made.
  - DOE responds by saying the agency recognized need for upfront coordination for the success of the project and in trying to adhere to administration principles. Participation in these early meetings is part of early coordination. DOE understands its not normal business-as-usual, but they are trying to affect change. DOE offers to EPA that she can contact her at any time with any concerns or questions and provides her phone number.
  - EPA thanks DOE for the offer. EPA mentions that correcting meeting minutes takes time and time is limited especially due to Sequestration and mandatory furloughs. EPA recommends that the first draft of the meeting minutes generated be as accurate as possible.
  - DOE iterates that if the minutes are part of the administrative record, then they should be correct.

**Action Item:** HDR to provide meeting minutes to agencies for review prior to posting on the SharePoint site.

#### 4. Pre application consultation

- a. DOC – CN Status
  - MP notifies the participants that the project will be submitting the Certificate of Need to the Public Utilities Commission. Currently the schedule is being updated and the plan is to implement the notice plan in order to notify various entities and landowners in certain areas that the project will be filing an application. Mid June will be official start of the state process. Project is working with Manitoba Hydro on business structure.
- b. DOE
  - Letter of Intent status
    - i. MP states the project has had conversations with the DOE and is planning to file the Letter of Intent with DOE in May, and that will allow a certain level of federalization. The LOI will indicate that the project intends to file a Presidential Permit application.
    - ii. DOE suggests that the LOI illustrate how we are communicating with the public and getting feedback.
  - Tribal
    - i. Tribal consultation is under Section 106 which is a separate process

- ii. HDR says that the project has invited tribal staff and councils to public meetings and notified them in the same way as an agency. There has not been much feedback. The project may have to do additional outreach in trying to figure out how to get them engaged.
- iii. DOE offers that at this point she suggests to continue to reach out and that it is not uncommon to continue to do so. She explains that sometimes there isn't interest or enough resources to pay attention to these projects until there are more definitive routes. At this point, the project can keep them informed and offer opportunity for input.

#### 5. Questions

- a. USACE updates the participants by saying the Corps has initiated to set up meetings with the DOE in order to discuss Section 106 responsibilities. Bill sent out a doodle poll to DOE personnel in order to get something arranged.
  - o DOE confirms that she has received the request, but that some key people at the DOE are out. She says that it will be helpful for her and Bill to have an initial conversation so that they have a productive meeting.

#### 6. Miscellaneous Info

- a. Working with DNR on biological data; have received some new information.
- b. Wetland mitigation – let the project team know if there are any opportunities.